



# CYCLING VETERAN BACKS CAMPAIGN

Report by Andrew Turton

**FAMOUS** cycling commentator Hugh Porter was back on his bicycle to back a campaign for a crossing to boost safety outside a popular Halesowen club.

Halesowen Athletic and Cyclist Club, of which Mr Porter is a patron, are asking council officials to investigate creating a pedestrian crossing in Manor Way, Halesowen.

Headteacher Dawn Betteridge, from Manor Way Primary School, is also supporting the campaign to help increase safety for her pupils.

Mr Porter said: "I'm happy to be backing the campaign and hope it will prove fruitful."

Mr Porter, who lives in Tettenhall, is the former BBC cycling commentator, a job that he held for 30 years.

## Barriers

The club, which has produced stars such as Olympic cyclist Jess Varnish, want a crossing on the dual carriageway as many visitors and members end up stepping over barriers in the central reservation as they cross the busy route to and from Birmingham and the Black Country.

Mr Porter, in a letter to Dudley Council, said: "Should a pedestrian crossing be installed it would provide significant benefits not only to members of my club but also to local residents, users of public transport and to the pupils of Manor Way Primary School. I would urge the local community, including local business, to support this project."

Police have positioned a speed camera in a bid to deter speeding and have been carrying out regular speed checks on the 40mph stretch outside the club. Dudley Council bosses say the authority is in talks with the club.



Cycling legend Hugh Porter and headteacher Dawn Betteridge who are helping to campaign for a crossing along Manor Way, Halesowen

## ROBBERY

### Black Country car-jacking suspects released on bail

TWO men who were arrested in connection with a car-jacking which saw a woman run over by her own car have been released on bail.

Police said inquiries were continuing into the violent attack in Ham Lane, Kingswinford, at 12.40am on Monday.

The 26-year-old victim was left injured and 'extremely shaken' after being dragged from her Ford Mondeo.

A dark hatchback had blocked her path. Her attackers reversed into her before driving over her leg as they sped from the scene. The two men, aged 19 and 20, were arrested in the area at 1am. Witnesses or anyone else with information is urged to contact police on 101.

## FOOTBALL

### End of Hawthorns price freeze sees £50 season ticket hike

WEST Bromwich Albion this week announced an increase in season ticket prices.

Adult season ticket prices at Albion have risen by around £50 following a price drop in 2012 followed by three seasons of price freezes.

The news came as it emerged two potential buyers have started inspecting the club's accounts ahead of possible takeover bids.

Meanwhile, Aston Villa fans rushed to snap up seats for the FA Cup final at Wembley when Villa will be looking to lift the trophy for the first time since 1957.

Supporters formed long queues at the Villa Park ticket office to secure places at the final against Arsenal on May 30.

## BUSINESS

### Shock as 500 jobs set to go at Dixons Carphone depot

FIVE hundred jobs will be axed in the Black Country under plans to close a huge distribution centre.

Dixons Carphone has unveiled a proposal to close its doors and relocate from Wednesbury to Newark in Nottinghamshire.

Bosses said staff would be offered jobs at the new site—more than 80 miles away from the distribution and repairs centre off Bilston Road.

Workers were informed on Tuesday and a formal consultation has been launched.

Bosses at the firm insisted it is just a proposal at this stage and no final decision has been made. However, any relocation from the West Midlands would be completed by early next year. Some even say the Wednesbury site could be closed by November.

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**EDITORIAL:**  
Tel: 01384 335203  
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**SPORTS:**  
Tel: 01902 319453  
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

**PHOTOGRAPHIC:**  
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

**ADVERTISING:** Nicola Cope  
Tel: 01902 319573  
E-mail: nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

**PROPERTY:** Marguerita Finnegan  
Tel: 01902 319627  
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

**MOTORING:** Liz Barratt  
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E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

**CLASSIFIED:**  
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# Rescue team arrive in disaster zone

**FIREFIGHTERS** and paramedics from the West Midlands have taken their first close-up look at the scale of devastation in Nepal.

Following the earthquake which killed more than 4,800 people, nine West Midlands firefighters have been deployed to the mountainous country between India and China, along with three West Midlands Ambulance Service staff.

They help make up a team of nearly 70 volunteers, drawn from UK fire and rescue services and health trusts. They have been deployed by the

Department for International Development.

The UK International Search and Rescue team has been tasked with searching an area north of Kathmandu's centre in the suburb of Chandol and surrounding areas.

**Heavy**

Co-ordination for the UK International Search and Rescue team is ongoing at the fire service's headquarters in Birmingham.

The West Midlands contingent have taken heavy rescue equipment

and is leading the coordination of the UK response on the ground, including vital communications, transport and IT support.

A spokesperson for the team said: "Our volunteer members train hard and are fully prepared to help in whatever way they can."

"These are highly-skilled firefighters and staff from UK fire and rescue services, and specialist doctors and paramedics. They will be giving their all to help the Nepalese during these catastrophic events."

"In all, nearly 70 personnel will

provide specialised technical search and rescue assistance in collapsed buildings. This includes locating and rescuing people deeply entrapped, search dog support, medical support, engineering, assessing damage and stabilising scenes.

"It will be extremely challenging work, and we are giving them and their families every support possible."

The team is also exploring ways of assisting the World Health Organisation with the wider humanitarian effort.

# Veterans to stand up to Britain First marchers

**MILITARY** veterans have announced they are planning to hold a counter demonstration in Dudley against far right group Britain First.

The group, which acts under the name 'I'm a UK veteran and not a racist, and proud of it', says it has been angered by Britain First's use of the military to 'in-flame public opinion'.

Members said they were offended by the use of images of murdered soldier Lee Rigby. They are also unhappy that Britain First sells badges bearing a poppy image.

More than 2,000 members of Britain First are planning to protest over plans to build a mosque off Hall Street next Saturday, May 9. The military veterans group, which has around 500 members, says it will hold a counter demonstration at the same time. The ex-servicemen will be led by John McKnight, a Royal Navy veteran of 16 years, who said he plans to confront Britain First leader Paul Golding, who is expected to attend.

Mr McKnight said: "A small group of us intend to confront Mr Golding at this march to show him what we think of him. Our plan is to stand in front of him and his pseudo military bunch of bullies, whilst wearing military charity shirts and our regimental service berets, and hold up a white feather each, to signify his cowardice."

"We intend to make our statement in a peaceful manner and will not rise to any taunts that they throw at us."

Mr McKnight added: "We feel that once our statement is shown to the world, people will wake up to the fact that Britain First do not represent or support us in any way."

The protest comes just three months after the English Defence League and opponents held demonstrations in the town centre. Traders say mass protests in the town are 'destroying' their businesses.

Dudley Police have organised public meetings to discuss the policing operation. More than 50 people attended a meeting at Dudley Council House on Thursday.

Businessman Tony Swannie, owner of Plaza Mall in the High Street, said the protests was hitting traders in the pocket. "There are businesses in Dudley that are barely surviving," he said. "These protests are destroying our businesses. We cannot afford to lose another day of trading."

## Law firm sponsor cricket club



**Club chairman Richard Evans (left) with CBCT director Neil Mocroft, Kevin Drew and Omar Sadique**

**HALESOWEN** Cricket Club has announced a major sponsorship deal with West Bromwich and Stratford-upon-Avon law firm Clark Brookes Turner Cary (CBCT).

The firm is to inject a 'significant sum' to help support the Birmingham and District League side this summer As part of the package CBCT will be utilising the facilities.

The one year rolling deal will see CBCT hold meetings and conferences at the ground. It will be backing the club with perimeter board advertising and it will be holding half a dozen games per year on the ground to entertain clients.

CBCT has a strong cricketing

our profile and attract new clients. It will be a return to my old stamping ground as director Neil Mocroft and I used to work out of Halesowen and Stourbridge in the 1980s and 1990s."

contingent. Mr Drew, a conveyancing specialist, has been a player, coach, and chairman of Penn Cricket Club and is chairman of North Worcestershire Cricket Development Group. He holds the voluntary role of legal director at Worcestershire Cricket Board.

Mr Mocroft is a Worcestershire County Cricket Club member and three of the team – Richard Pinning, Omar Sadique and solicitor Jai Najranstall – still put on their whites.

# Shortage hits dental services in the borough

**DENTAL** patients in Dudley borough have had to travel further afield for corrective treatment. Some people have been unable to get dental treatment in Dudley for around 16 months.

Those patients have instead been referred to other parts of the Black Country, Birmingham or Solihull for treatment, such as braces. Only one consultant had been managing the service based at Russells Hall Hospital. Dentists say they are concerned that after the consultant retired only a locum was left for remaining patients.

Dudley Local Dental Committee chairman Sue Stevens, of Norton Dental Practice, Stourbridge, said it was a 'major problem'.

She added: "Children with severe orthodontic problems, unsuitable for treatment in primary care, are unable to access consultant led services. The consultant has now retired, and a locum appointed for six months, who is unlikely to be seeing patients from the waiting list. The commissioners at NHS England in Birmingham seem to be content to forget about provision of services in Dudley."

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "The orthodontic service remains closed to new referrals. Despite attempts to recruit to the consultant post, we have been unsuccessful. This is in line with a national shortage of orthodontists. We are about to make a further attempt to recruit by advertising the position again."

## Manhole smoke revealed blaze

**SMOKE** billowed from a manhole cover in a road near Stourbridge after an underground fire broke out.

Firefighters were called to Barbrook Drive, in Amblecote, last week, to tackle the blaze.

Crews from Stourbridge used a carbon dioxide extinguisher to put out the flames coming from an underground junction box.

**Pavement**

Electricity supplies had to be isolated in the area while the crew waited for engineers to arrive at the scene by the mid-morning.

The pavement had been cordoned off during the fire.

National Grid worked to make repairs.

## Ford car owners will meet at pub

A CHARITY car meet for owners of classic Ford cars is being held at a Black Country pub.

The event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is planned at The Brewer's Wharf in Level Street, Brierley Hill, on Sunday, June 7, from 10am to 4pm.

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# Collapse of £8m deal to rescue old theatre

AN £8 million deal to save Dudley Hippodrome has collapsed after talks over a rescue bid broke down, leaving the landmark theatre facing a bleak future.

Campaigners said they were ‘appalled’ after the deal by The Rok Group to reopen the venue fell through. It marks a major blow to the three year campaign by the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome to save the venue, after their own proposals were knocked back.

The Rok Group, led by Jonathan Kendrick whose family owned the theatre in the 1960s, said it had now withdrawn its bid to acquire, reopen and refurbish the Hippodrome. Bosses claimed the deal broke down after they failed to reach an agreement over shared use of the car park that also serves Dudley Zoo and over the cost of removing asbestos.

The Rok Group also said they were ‘frustrated’ that no senior councillors had face-to-face talks with them.

But Dudley Council said officials were involved in talks and reported back to senior councillors. Council officials also said the company’s plans would have left the authority with a risk of stumping up £1m to safeguard the scheme. The row has led to Dudley’s UKIP group calling for an extraordinary meeting of the full council and urging the setting up of a cross party group to discuss the Hippodrome’s future.

Friends chairman Gordon Downing said: ‘I’m appalled that this has happened.’

## Mini magic going on show at hall

A CLUB for Mini enthusiasts will be marking the start of the summer show season with a special event at Himley Hall and Park next weekend.

The British Mini Club (BMC) will be holding the show at the Dudley Council-run mansion and its grounds on Sunday, May 10, between 10am and 4pm.

There will be a competition with 12 different classes to choose from, catering for every model of Sir Alec Issigonis’s iconic car, so closely associated with the 1960s.

Running alongside, there will be the Mini Show ‘n’ Shine display, with sections for both the classic Mini and modern Mini. For more information call (01384) 897779 or email david.hollis@britishminiclub.co.uk.

## Author is to give a talk at library

AUTHOR Adele Geras is visiting Dudley Library to give a talk on her new book Out of the Drak, set just after the First World War. Tickets for the talk on Saturday at 2pm can be reserved on (01384) 815560.

# ISIS bomb maker’s terror threats



Hamayun Tariq, aged 37, from Dudley

A CAR mechanic from Dudley who joined the Islamic State has posted taunts on social media revealing his bomb-making factory in Syria.

Hamayun Tariq, aged 37, was born and bred in Dudley but the father-of-two now claims to be an explosives expert and sniper for ISIS after fleeing the UK for Pakistan following his release from prison.

He has now shared chilling pictures on Twitter of a room kitted out with components, instruction manuals and bomb-making equipment.

Along with pictures of his ‘labo-

ratory’ in Syria, the jihadi has said: ‘IEDs is my favourite weapon after Sniping, u hit the enemy & disappear in thin air just like a Ghost. Its a Must’.

Tariq, who is divorced, claims he is using the room to make IEDs – improvised explosive devices.

It has been reported Tariq joined the Taliban after moving to the Waziristan region of north west Pakistan in 2012. According to reports Tariq had served a three-and-a-half year sentence after being deported to Britain. He was arrested for fraud in

Wolverhampton in 2005 but fled to Pakistan to avoid the case going to trial.

Meanwhile, a teenager from Lye has been arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences related to Syria.

The 18-year-old was detained by officers from the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit at an address in the town and taken to a Birmingham police station for questioning.

Computer equipment was seized from his home. The teenager, arrested on suspicion of preparing for terrorist acts, has been bailed until July.

# Pallbearer is jailed for knife attack on mourner

**A PALLBEARER who knifed the son of the woman whose coffin he had just carried has been jailed for four-and-a-half years.**

Simon Hughes stabbed Adam Hipkiss, the brother of his estranged partner, in the chest after downing around 20 pints at the wake.

The 36-year-old security guard ‘had words’ with his former girlfriend before leaving the wake at the Blue Brick Inn on Planet Road, Brierley Hill. He then went to her family home and damaged windows before collecting four kitchen knives and heading back to the pub.

Hughes was in the street with a knife in each hand when he came face to face with Mr Hipkiss and another mourner, James Trevelan, who had both just left the wake. He told them to ‘prepare to die’.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the pair persuaded him to drop the knives before Mr Hipkiss tried to detain him – unaware that he had two other knives in his pockets.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said: ‘There was a fight during which Mr Hipkiss was stabbed in the chest leaving a V-shaped wound. Thankfully the knife did not penetrate the chest cavity and it was not a very serious wound.’

### Alcohol

Mr Trevelan also received a minor cut to the hand whilst trying to intervene and was soon joined by other mourners who held Hughes down until police arrived.

Mr John Evans, defending, said the stress of the funeral combined with anti-depressant tablets and a large amount of alcohol had combined to drastically alter the character of Hughes.

He said: ‘He had not demonstrated violence in the past but became a changed man. What he did was wholly wrong and he acknowledges that.’

Hughes from Orchard Street, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to wounding with intent, assault, possession of a bladed article and criminal damage at the wake on January 26.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told him: ‘You had had far too much to drink. There was a confrontation at night in public during which you stabbed the brother of your former partner, and son of the deceased, in the chest. You must be sentenced for the intention you had when you wielded the knife.’

## Celebrating VE Day all over again



Museum assistant Anne Willetts and visitor services officer Alison Hyatt prepare for the VE Day event

HADEN Hill House Museum is hosting a free event for all ages on Bank Holiday Monday to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day. The fun and nostalgic event runs from noon to 4pm at the Victorian house and in Haden Hill Park, off Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.

‘There will be some fabulous live music with Martiniue Jazz so why not bring a picnic to enjoy and take part in our street party,’

said Alison Hyatt, visitor services officer. ‘There will be 1940s costumed characters in the house and grounds, as well as some fabulous historic vehicles including a 1940s tea truck. Visitors can enjoy family entertainment and handle some World War Two objects.’

She added: ‘A visitor once told us that on VE day in 1945 Haden Hill Park was buzzing with entertainment and there were people everywhere. We also know the

house was used as a food store, to house bombed-out families and as a holding place for evacuees before they were given places to stay. So the house has an important connection to the homefront in World War Two.’ Call the museum on 01384 569444.

Other VE Day commemorations in Sandwell include lighting a beacon, one of a national chain, on the Rowley Hills on Friday, May 8, at 9.30pm.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Serious blaze on industrial estate

UP to 75 firefighters were yesterday afternoon (Wednesday) tackling a huge fire which had broken out at an Oldbury industrial estate.

Plumes of smoke were seen for miles coming from Tat Bank Road, Langley, where it is believed the blaze had hit plastics firm Teknor Apex.

Fifteen fire vehicles from West Midlands Fire Service were attending the scene after receiving a call shortly after 1.20pm. Explosions could be heard at the scene. Nearby residents were being evacuated and others were warned to keep windows closed.

### Flog It expert to hold fundraiser

AN antiques expert who has appeared on the BBC’s Flog It is hosting a fundraising night at Stourbridge church tonight (Thursday) when people can bring along interesting old items.

Mark Hannam is an auctioneer and valuer at Fieldings Auctioneers, in Stourbridge, and has featured on the television show. He will be at St Thomas’s Church Hall to help raise money for its annual flower festival this July. The event is being held at the church, in Market Street, from 7.30pm. Tickets are £6 including light refreshments, available on the door.

### Crash three are taken to hospital

TWO men and a woman were taken to hospital following a two-car collision in the Black Country.

Fire crews from Tipton and Dudley were called to Birmingham New Road, at the junction with Tipton Road, Dudley at 8.05am on Saturday. The crash involved a Rover and a Vauxhall Zafira.

The two men and the woman were not thought to be seriously injured but were all taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley for checks.

### Ground decision saves club from relegation

TIVIDALE Football Club have been saved from relegation after winning an appeal over their ground.

The club had faced demotion to the fifth tier of non-league football after an initial application to upgrade the ground was rejected.

But the decision was overturned at Wembley Stadium on Friday, meaning the club can remain in the Evo-Stick First Division South.

Officials said they were delighted with the verdict.

### Charity coffee morning

A COFFEE morning in aid of the neo-natal unit at Russells Hall Hospital is being held in Halesowen.

The event is being held at Halesowen Golf Club at The Leasowes on Friday, May 8, from 10am to 1pm. It has been organised by the Dudley Group NHS Charity.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



"PERHAPS too much Cognac." Manager Michael Grange's priceless explanation of the fire at Oxford's famous Randolph Hotel, thought to have been caused by someone cooking a beef flambe.

THIS week's rash of revelations about massive salaries and pay rises for senior NHS executives should surely focus minds on how the health service spends its money. Apparently not. When party leaders talk about the future of the NHS, they always pledge more money, as if the sole aim is to spend as much as possible. Isn't it obvious by now that the many-headed leviathan of NHS management is perfectly capable of absorbing every penny the nation throws at it (currently £115,000 million and rising), while still delivering some of the longest queues and worst cancer-outcome rates in the developed world?

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon says of her manifesto: "This is about how we deliver better politics, not just for people in Scotland but right across the UK." This is presumably the same UK that Ms Sturgeon and her pals want to destroy.



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£2,000 which they can then lend to some poor devil already up to his eyeballs in debt. The leaden lifebelt.

A READER writes: "With the election looming, there are far too many political jokes doing the rounds. The snag is, some of them will get elected."

IT is a wonderful spring for cherry blossom. When the cherries appear, the finches we see for only a few fruit-rich days per year will descend and take the lot in an orgy of scoffing. Yesterday I saw a brief flash of colour over our blossom-covered cherry tree. Some would see it as a rare sighting of a gorgeous little bullfinch. I see it as a recipe for much gorging to come, the first spotter plane before the blitz.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Patients given more say in running services

**FUNDING of £50,000 has been awarded to set up patient groups to represent the views of residents across Dudley borough.**

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has allocated cash to enable Patient Participation Groups (PPG) which will work to make improvements during the next two years.

Each group is linked to a GP practice in the borough and members work alongside health staff to provide a patient perspective on the healthcare services available in the community.

A budget of up to £1,000 for each PPG has been made available to enable them to set up, encourage the involvement of new patients and work to improve health and well-being of patients. The funding has been made available through the PPG Purse Grant Programme.

A number of groups have already planned health events, such as tea parties and open days, for their particular practice.

One of the first is Three Villages Medical Practice in Stourbridge, which was hosting a tea party this week to keep in touch with patients. The Ridgeway Surgery in Sedgley is planning an event in June.

PPGs from different practices can work collaboratively to host joint events and activities.

Cicely Thomas, chairman of The Ridgeway Surgery PPG, said: "We are so pleased that funding has

been made available. We are really excited at the opportunity to make a difference to our local community and encourage more people to join our PPG and have a voice."

There is no closing date to apply for funding. Dudley CVS will be holding the funds and administering the programme. For more information about the PPG Purse Grant Programme, call Helen Codd on (01384) 321719 or Kate Green at Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

The move comes after GPs in Dudley were handed more power to manage the borough's £400 million health budget. They will work with NHS England to decide how the money is spent. Dudley CCG was given permission to take responsibility for co-commissioning the majority of GP services from this month, one of the first given the green light by NHS England.

Henry Ratcliffe with from left Maria Kaye, Guy Brace and Annabel Cooper get ready for a vintage fair

## The vinyl countdown to fairs



Henry Ratcliffe with from left Maria Kaye, Guy Brace and Annabel Cooper get ready for a vintage fair

A COUPLE with a passion for the past are taking Stourbridge back in time with retro fashion and classic music.

Henry Ratcliffe and Maria Kaye are bringing a record fair to the Talbot Hotel next Saturday, May 9, after it's successful debut earlier this year.

When the vinyl is packed away after the sale, Miss Kaye will then turn her attention to a vintage fair which she will be hosting the following week, on May 16 at St Thomas' Church Hall in Market Street.

Both events take place between 11am and 4pm.

They are hoping to take advantage of a resurgence in interest in vinyl and fashion from the 70s, 60s and 50s.

Mr Ratcliffe said: "I have grown up with records, my dad had them and I never really stopped buying them. I have always been a bit of a collector."

"I set up the records fair because I thought there was a need for it in Stourbridge. We've had one event at the Talbot and around 200 people came."

The couple, who live in Birmingham, both have experience of working in music stores.

## Girl, 3, is thrown from car in crash

A THREE-YEAR-OLD girl was thrown from a car and left with serious head injuries following a crash in Tipton.

Her mother was also badly hurt in the smash and had to be cut out of her Ford Focus after it was involved in a collision with a Volkswagen Golf in Park Lane West at 1.15pm on Monday.

The force was such that the crash threw the young girl from the car and onto the road and left both vehicles with serious damage. The youngster remained at Birmingham Children's Hospital overnight, but her injuries are not thought to be life-threatening.

She remained conscious at the scene and was comforted by bystanders until paramedics arrived. She suffered a head injury and was complaining about neck and back pain.

It took firefighters 50 minutes to free her mother, a woman in her 20s, from her car.

She suffered pelvic injuries was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Her one-year-old son, was also in the car, was not hurt but was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital as a precaution.

The man driving the Golf was assessed for a collarbone injury but did not require hospital treatment.

The busy road was closed for more than an hour following the crash.

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# Hero Pc feared for his life as he clung onto moving car

A POLICE officer thought he was going to be killed as he tried to stop a banned driver stealing fuel from a petrol station, a judge heard.

Pc Christopher Howell was clinging to a stolen Citroen C4 as it sped off the Co-op forecourt in Dudley Port, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. But he was forced to throw himself clear after realising he would be struck by a parked vehicle, said Mr David Iles, prosecuting.

## Ceremony to honour those who help out

AN AWARDS ceremony will be held for volunteers who give up their spare time in Sandwell.

Volunteer Centre Sandwell will be holding their fifth biannual Sandwell Volunteer Awards at West Bromwich Town Hall on June 5. Organisers say the awards will recognise the incredible transformation that volunteers have made to people, places and communities across the borough.

Awards are given in eight categories, including community organisation, corporate, environment, health and social care, young volunteer, trustee volunteer, volunteer co-ordinator and long service volunteer.

Jean Taylor, CEO of Volunteer Centre Sandwell, said: "Volunteering works both ways - the benefit it provides to the community and the benefit the volunteers receive from the experience themselves."

The event will coincide with National Volunteers Week which starts on June 1.

"The officer could see he would be knocked from the Citroen and so broke free," said Mr Iles.

Pc Howell was taken to hospital for cuts and bruises and admitted: 'I feared for my life,' the court heard. He had been on patrol when spotting the petrol pump was feeding fuel through a rear window of the Citroen into a large container. Driver Craig Williams, of Colbourne Road, Tipton, saw him coming and sped off abandoning his accomplice who was left holding the fuel pump. Mr Iles explained: "The car left with wheels spinning and the officer hanging on." The £2,000 Citroen was on false registration plates and had been stolen by 40-year-old Williams from Great Bridge Cars in Great Bridge Street on September 2.

Mr Iles said of the car theft: "He asked to look under the bonnet while the engine was running, leapt in and sped off." Williams stole two other cars from MJC Motors in Queens Road, Smethwick and Cars and Commercial at Kingswinford, on September 18 and 30 respectively. They were sold to fund his drug habit but he kept the Citroen and used it to escape after stealing a £70 drill from B&Q at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen on September 8.

Williams pleaded guilty to assaulting a police officer, theft, dangerous driving and driving while disqualified and was jailed for two years nine months. He also received a three-year driving ban.

## A capital marathon for Blind Dave



Blind Dave Heeley at the finish line of the London Marathon with his guides Rosemary Rhodes and Tony Ellis

FUNDRAISER Dave Heeley and the mother of inspirational teenager Stephen Sutton, from Burntwood, near Walsall, were among 38,000 people who completed the London Marathon.

The turnout of runners was the biggest in the event's 35-year history.

Blind Dave embarked on the trek just weeks after finishing the punishing Marathon Des Sables across the Sahara desert.

Dave, who was with guides Rosemary Rhodes and Tony Ellis, finished the marathon after sending tweets

from the 26.2 mile route on his way to the finish line on The Mall on Sunday afternoon.

The father-of-three, who is a devoted Baggies fan, has already helped raise almost £26,000 for The Albion Foundation which supports community projects including disability sport.

Jane Sutton had been in training aiming to continue her son Stephen's legacy - and finished in a time of six hours, three minutes and 19 seconds. Her fundraising total is almost £10,000 - a target she set in memory

of Stephen's original target for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

She told Facebook followers: "I'm quite happy with this as I did exactly what I set out to do which was keep my promise, soak up the atmosphere, cross the finish line with a smile on my face with my thumbs up for Stephen."

World record holder Paula Radcliffe, 41, completed her final competitive marathon at the event. The Beckham family were among an estimated 750,000 spectators who lined the streets of the capital.

## Hollywood star joy for ELO legend

ELO legend Jeff Lynne said he was thrilled to be honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The 67-year-old Brummie has already had a star presented in his home city to mark his musical achievements.

Now he has been given the 2,548th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles

Lynne, who hails from Shard End, Birmingham, was joined at the ceremony by fellow Travelling Wilburys bandmate Tom Petty and the Eagles' Joe Walsh.

The star was unveiled in front of the iconic Capitol Records Building on Hollywood Boulevard.

Lynne, who now lives in Beverly Hills, said: "I think it's marvellous. I never would have imagined this chap from Birmingham, England, would have his name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame."

"I know it's a real populist thing and all that stuff, and it's not usually my style, but you can't turn that down. I am thrilled."

The musician was given a place on Birmingham's Broad Street Walk of Stars last year.

He returned to his home city to receive the honour and headlined a Hyde Park show performing hits Mr Blue Sky, Wild West Hero and Xanadu with Olivia Newton-John.

## Off-duty officer's body is discovered at home

THE body of a police officer has been discovered at a home in Great Barr.

Police say they are investigating but the death is not being treated as suspicious. The police officer, who has not yet been named, was off duty at the time. Officers were called to an address in Courtenay Road near the James Watt Campus of Birmingham Metropolitan College last Thursday.

West Midlands Police said that the coroner had been informed.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# Political advice – from a murderer

STILL wondering which way to vote in the election? Seeking wise counsel on where to put your cross come polling day? Fear not. Moors murderer Ian Brady has entered the debate, and has put his thoughts on paper. Apparently, he believes most professional criminals are Tory voters, he says David Cameron represents “the usual mob-pleasing PR drivel expected from such bovines”, and believes David Dimbleby is an “establishment dumpling”. Suffice to say, he is not very fond of Ed Milliband either, although it’s probably best not to go into his rather offensive thoughts on that matter.

Apparently, Brady hasn’t read a newspaper since 1998, and keeps up to date by watching the Middle East television channel Al Jazeera – don’t you just reckon they will be thrilled with that endorsement? Still, it’s wise to remember all this next time the European Court of Human Rights starts banging on about giving prisoners the vote.

A FEW weeks ago, a note from the council contractors landed on the door mat informing us that the road would be resurfaced. Among other things, it boasted how environmentally friendly the new resurfacing process would be. I know we have to take care of the wildlife these days, but was it really necessary to carefully lay the asphalt around a dandelion?

THE problem with many of the email scams is that very often it is very hard to tell what is genuine. I received a communication supposedly from B&Q, telling me how it was “the perfect place to choose a new shade of paint, invest in some kitchen cabinets, or simply buy a few plants for the garden”. It also told me that if I clicked on the attached link, I might be in with the chance of winning a £500 voucher. However, I think on this occasion, it might not be all it seems. I’m really not convinced that bq@yazmin.homeybot-tom.com is an official B&Q email address.

MORE weirdness from the world of education. Turnham Primary School in south-east London is now insisting that all three-year-olds must now sign a contract guaranteeing that they will be tolerant of various things, including “race, gender, class, ability, faith, sexual orientation or lifestyle”, and that they must “refrain from using transphobic language in the school.”

I suppose we should be impressed by the fact that all the children are presumably able to read and write at such a tender age of three, although it does not say what action they take if they breach the agreement. Court proceedings to confiscate their yo-yos, perhaps?

Transphobic language? Something to do with those cars that turn into robots?



Rev Katryn Leclezio has found 1,191 caches



Special discovery hanging from tree



It is interesting to find what is in the containers

# Treasured pastime firmly on the map

Never mind games consoles, the popular pastime of geocaching brings its own thrills, as ROB COX explains

**WITH the variety of entertainment available on games consoles and tablets, the popularity of geocaching to some appears remarkable.**

Following a map to different co-ordinates and then filling out a logbook offers, it could be argued, slightly fewer thrills than the latest instalment of Call of Duty.

But the continued expansion of geocaching around the world is down to simple pleasures, an activity which has kept children occupied for years – the humble treasure hunt.

Finding a box hidden in a tree after hours of searching offers the same joyous experience of finding an Easter egg hidden by your parents.

The difference with geocaching is the unprecedented scale on which it is played.

## Stashed

More than two million items have been stashed in nooks and crannies across the planet.

The forces of globalisation mean people are travelling more than ever, making the game impossible to complete and playable almost anywhere.

In the West Midlands geocaching is proving increasingly popular, with thousands of hidden items to find and log online.

For those unclear about how it works, game players use GPS-enabled devices – usually mobile phones – to find containers that are hidden in public areas by other geocachers.

The idea is to search online before setting out, enter co-ordinates into your device, and then use your wits to track down the exact location.

Most containers have a log book which can be filled out, and the box is returned to its hiding place.

Once back in the warmth of their own



Rev Katryn Leclezio all ready to go with her GPS device

homes gamers can record their finds online and leave comments.

Feedback is about prestige for the cache hider, and considered a reward for hiding the box in the first place.

Some boxes contain items which can be taken, as long as they are replaced.

There is also an ethical side to geocaching which gamers voluntarily abide by. The rules are as follows.

\* Don’t leave obscene comments or materials behind for others. The idea is for geocaching to be family friendly.

\* Respect local laws, including property boundaries. Caches must be placed in public areas. But anyone can set one up.

\* Never move or remove a cache and log any issues with damaged caches, missing logbooks or inaccurate cache information. It is then up to the cache owner to take action.

\* Respect for the environment around each cache. ‘Cache In Trash Out’ events are regularly held with cachers taking bags and picking litter as they go.

And, as mentioned, if you take something from a cache, leave something in return.

In the Black Country, there a few more prolific at finding caches than the vicar at St Peter’s Church in Cradley, Rev Katryn Leclezio.

Since starting back in 2001 she has found 1,191 caches and has hidden around 15 of her own, including some in the churchyard.

She explained there are thousands in the Black Country and some are more difficult to find than others.

“Some of them can be really hard to find,” she said. “I was out with a colleague the other day in Netherton. We got to the spot the co-ordinates were pointing to and it was saying it was in someone’s garden.

“We realised that couldn’t be it and when we checked the terrain rating was just one and the difficulty to find rating was five.

“So we looked at a map and found that the Netherton tunnels went under where we were. We ended up going into the tunnel three times until we found it.”

The 53-year-old has geocached around the world from South Africa to Scandinavia to Cyprus.

Each week on her day off she will go off to find another cache, and while on holiday she likes to find ‘at least’ one per day.

Of the hundreds she has located she says the ingenuity of some of the cache owners in the Midlands is among the best in the world.

“Some people have the cleverest ideas,” she said. “We were near Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire doing a circular walk of around 10 or 12. But there was one we just could not find.

“The GPS signal was great so we knew we were within a metre of it. It said it was by a stile but I had felt all around it and must have lifted every stone there was.

## Canister

“It wasn’t until we went to go over it that I noticed the arrow sign was wiggling around. Someone had hollowed it out and put a little film canister inside with the log inside.”

The popularity of geocaching could also be attributed to its ability to evolve and expand.

Rev. Leclezio says what has really taken off in the Black Country area is the concept of EarthCache.

These are geology-related caches where, instead of a box to find, it teaches you about a particular geographical feature.

This development follows on from ‘geocoins’ and ‘geobugs’ inside hidden boxes.

These items have tags on them with a tracking number. When the finder enters the number into the geocaching website it reveals the item’s ‘mission’.

Rev. Leclezio once hid a toy giraffe, which has now been travelling the world for four years. Its mission is to return home, but has since been recorded as far away as Cape Town and Slovakia, so it could be away a while yet.

It seems the simple pleasure of finding hidden ‘treasure’ is just as appealing in the digital age as ever before.

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# Visitor centre will 'disfigure' beauty spot

I READ with dismay of the visitor centre that has been given planning permission by Bromsgrove District Council. This is a decision that will have far more impact on the people of Dudley than the citizens of Bromsgrove, so it seems inappropriate that the final decision on this significant development should rest with their council.

It also seems illogical to create another entrance to the Hagley Hall estate, particularly when it will be situated so far from the hall itself. No doubt this was done to avoid protest from the residents of the village.

Placing the new entrance and visitor centre on the A456 is unwise as this is already a very busy road and gaining access and egress to and from the estate could be quite hazardous.

No doubt traffic calming measures will be brought in which will then create traffic congestion in the area. Bromsgrove Council appear to be rather good at this as can be seen by the traffic island 'improvements' at the new housing development in Hagley.

However, the worst aspect of this development is that it being carried out on Green Belt land that is also

adjacent to the National Trust owned Client Hills. It most certainly will detract from the views from these hills.

Once the centre has been built and is operational no doubt there will be 'needs' and 'economic' benefits found to justify further developments in the area. My great fear is that for the people of Dudley and South Birmingham our only area of outstanding natural beauty could eventually be heavily disfigured by this breach of the sanctity of the Green Belt.

**D CARTWRIGHT**  
Halesowen

## GP crisis has to be sorted out

LAST week my husband tried to get a GP appointment because he was feeling very poorly. We thought it was flu but he was feeling worse.

He was told at the surgery he had no chance of an appointment and to go to a walk-in centre about four miles away. He was so ill my son took his dad to Russells Hall A&E department. They saw him right away and said if my son had left it one more day he would be in hospital with pneumonia.

Cameron and Miliband should stop arguing like school children, blaming each other about the state of the NHS and try living in our world. We're the ones that are suffering.

They find millions of pounds for foreign aid but there is never enough money for our needs. Like all NHS needs this GP situation is getting worse. They can bet their sweet lives that they won't get my vote.

**M JONES**  
Tipton

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
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*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

## Pension not another benefit, it is earned

VERY pleased to receive a letter from the pension service saying I will get an increase in my state pension. Not so pleased that it is described as a general increase in benefits.

I do not look on myself as receiving benefits. I receive a pension which I have earned through paying tax for 50 years, part of which was used to fund pensions for people already retired. I also, like millions of others, paid graduated pension and state earnings related contributions with the promise of receiving a greater pension on retirement.

I find that as the demands on the state increase more and more often state pensions are referred to as benefits. When a pie chart was shown recently pensions were 50 percent of the welfare payments. Is this a deliberate ploy to eventually phase out the right to an automatic state pension?

I feel convinced that the retirement age will become a thing of the past. People will no longer automatically be able to stop work just because they have reached a certain age, rather they will have to be signed off as not fit by a doctor in order to receive a 'benefit'.

One more question, benefits are not taxed, so if a state pension is a benefit why is it taxed?

**R WILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

## Fifth rate politicians lack respect

AFTER watching the first election debate I thought that's enough for me. Despite that I still gave it another go but never again.

It was just like watching and listening to a gang of kids in the playground (sorry kids) bawling and shouting their heads off, what a load of rubbish.

Also relating to the playground was the lack of respect. I have always believed that all people have their right of opinion whether you agree with them or not.

The only laugh of the night came when David Dimbleby tried to make out the audience wasn't being biased.

There must be thousands, if not millions, who watched the debates over the last few nights and must be wondering how have we come to this.

What has gone wrong that we have ended up with a load of fifth rate politicians? God help us.

**S BIRD**  
Ettingshall

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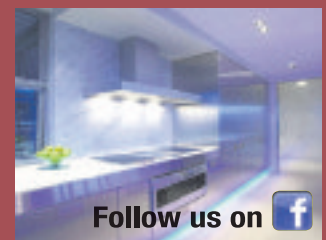
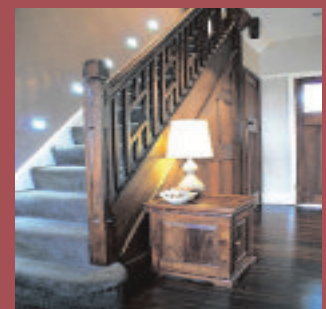
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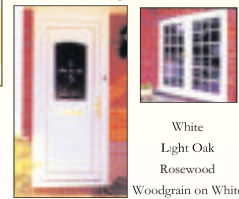
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## Onesie walk on the wild side at zoo



Athena Beasley is all set for Dudley Zoo's sponsored Onesie Walk this weekend in aid of conservation projects

ANIMAL lovers are being urged to take a walk on the wild side in Dudley Zoo's sponsored Onesie Walk on Saturday

Open to all ages, the walk will take participants through the zoo's 40-acre site. Those taking part are welcome to wear their favourite animal onesie or fancy dress, but it is not mandatory.

Money raised from the 5km walk will be split between the zoo's conservation projects and 21st Century Tiger, a charity which supports tigers in the wild. Walkers who raise £50 could fund a ranger in Sumatra for one month. Registration is £5 per adult, £2.50 under 15s and under 3s free. Up to four spectators per walker get entry at £5 each.

## NHS pensions warning

**CHANGES to NHS pensions will leave the health service short of GPs, consultants and dentists, a firm of accountants has warned.**

A new cap on how much an NHS pension can earn could persuade thousands of senior NHS doctors to take early retirement, leaving the West Midlands short

of their crucial skills. This is the warning from Bishop Fleming, an accountancy firm with a specialist team serving healthcare clients.

"Recent changes to pension rules mean that the NHS is likely to lose many doctors and dentists aged more than 50," said Tim Godfrey, head of Bishop Fleming's healthcare team.

"The recent reduction of the maximum pension pot is a big issue for NHS doctors - including GPs and consultants - and for NHS dentists. Now that the permitted ceiling for a pension pot is £1 million, many long-serving doctors and dentists - aged in their 50's - will have reached that ceiling and will now be studying whether it is worth their while to continue working," said Mr Godfrey.

"I understand why the Government introduced these new pension rules, but everything in life can have unintended consequences."



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# Thousands take to the streets for Sikh festival of Vaisakhi

THE streets of the Black Country were awash with blue and orange as tens of thousands of revellers turned out to celebrate the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi.

Holy processions took place in Walsall and Sandwell on Sunday with the latter culminating in a spectacular celebration in Birmingham's Handsworth Park that was attended by more than 100,000 people.

The festival celebrates the creation of the Khalsa in 1699 — one of the most significant events in the history of Sikhism — and also marks the coming of spring.

Sandwell's parade is part of one of the biggest Vaisakhi celebrations outside India's Punjab region. It started in Smethwick, with people gathering at the Gurdwara Baba Sang in St Paul's Road from 7am.

The large crowd — many of them dressed in the Khalsa's traditional colours of orange and blue — began to gather to the tune of a steady beat set by a band of drummers.

The procession, known as Nagar Kirtan, was led by a group of barefoot sweepers who cleared the streets ahead of dozens of flag bearers.

Refreshments were served up free of charge by an army of volunteers.

They included Gurmit Singh, 41, who attended the parade with his father, Mohinder Singh, 59. They handed out bags of fruit and soft drinks to those taking part.

He said: "It is a great gathering. A big part of being a Sikh is helping others, it's central to our culture. Giving out food and drink is something we do as a gesture of goodwill to everyone involved."



Star selfie — Prof Brian Cox with engineering student Cain Costello at Dudley Advance College

# Aim for the stars, says TV professor

SCIENCE superstar Professor Brian Cox officially opened Dudley College's new engineering and manufacturing campus, declaring it a place where students' dreams can come true.

As a man who is known for gazing at the stars, it was the scientist and television presenter who was in focus as he toured the £7 million facility yesterday.

Professor Cox was the guest of honour as Dudley Council bosses celebrated the official launch of the campus in Priory Road, which they hope will give students the skills to be the manufacturers and engineers of the future.

He was given the chance to test the college equipment and also delivered a lecture to Year 10 pupils from schools across Dudley and Sandwell on 'exploring the universe through engineering and science'.

Professor Cox said facilities such as the Dudley campus were vitally important to the future of the country. He explained: "In this country we know we will need more than a million engineers at all levels, from apprenticeships to PhDs, by 2020. That's not going to happen but we must find more engineers in this country."

The campus offers courses for more than 1,200 students and the curriculum has been developed and delivered in close partnership with Aston University and employers.

Professor Cox said opportunities were endless for young people who acquire qualifications in science and engineering. "There will be a guaranteed job — they will be in demand. But the most important thing is how exciting it is to learn about science and engineering. There is a possibility for these students to be involved in building aeroplane engines and Mars rovers."

Professor Cox first found fame as a member of the band D:Ream in the 1990s and he has been widely credited with helping to make science cool.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "He is a science superstar. We want more young people to be enthusiastic about science, particularly girls."

"Brian Cox embodies a working man who has become superstar in science."

"We get hung up on everything happening in the exam room and we want kids to do well and get their maths and English but it's all about learning technical skills"

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# Salesmen attacked during car crime spree

THIEVES who dragged a car salesman around a Black Country garage forecourt as they stole a vehicle have been locked up.

Reuben Hylton and Meryl Dacosta were jailed at Birmingham Crown Court for a crime spree, with Hylton getting three years and Dacosta 18 months.

Their car thefts started in December when 24-year-old Hylton approached a worker at a Kings Heath used-car dealership at Samuel Booth Works about buying a Renault Megane. Once he had the keys to inspect the vehicle, Hylton drove off the £2,600 car without paying. It was found dumped a day later.

Just four days after the first theft, on December 12, Hylton struck again at a garage on Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, driving off after asking for the keys to a Nissan Qashqai parked on the forecourt.

Over the next two months Hylton, of no fixed address, used the same tactic to steal cars from a Hyundai garage in Sheldon, used-car dealerships on Gossey lane, Kitts Green; Dudley Road, Lye; and St Johns Road in Stourbridge.

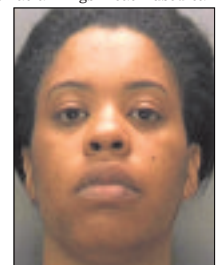
## Burka

Dacosta, of Boscombe Road, Tyseley, punched a salesman and stole a car from a garage on Northgate, Aldridge, on January 30.

Wearing a burka to disguise her appearance, the 27-year-old took a Vauxhall Astra for a test drive and when the salesman became suspicious he pulled on the handbrake and stopped the vehicle. The dealer was punched to the face before she drove off, leaving him at the side of the road.

The pair were arrested after the Ford Focus they stole from Old Mill Garage, Stourbridge, on February 5 was spotted on the M5.

Dacosta had dragged a salesman along the forecourt when trying to steal a car. The 60-year-old was not



Meryl Dacosta — violent

seriously hurt and was able to raise the alarm as she sped off in a car with Hylton, who had been waiting nearby.

Motorway police stopped the pair at Frankley Services and the car they were travelling in was found to have been stolen from a garage in Alvechurch.

Hylton was charged with 19 offences: six counts of stealing motor vehicles from forecourts across the West Midlands; eight counts of driving while disqualified; two counts of making off without paying for petrol; one count of assault and another charge of breaching an anti-social behaviour order.

Dacosta was also charged in connection with the Stourbridge Motor Company theft and Aldridge robbery.

The pair pleaded guilty and were sentenced on April 17.

Hylton received a 40-month custodial sentence and a 44-month driving ban, while Dacosta was jailed for 18 months.



# No logic over lack of nurse training



**DANIEL WAINWRIGHT**  
Political Editor

**DEVOLUTION** of power, so it isn't concentrated all in one place, seems to be high on the politicians' agenda, but is it too much to ask for a little joined-up thinking?

Take the NHS, for example. On a visit to Wolverhampton the shadow health secretary Andy Burnham is as much at a loss as anyone else to explain the logic of not funding more training places for nurses, while hospital trusts are so desperate for staff they go to places like Greece and Italy to find them. Mr Burnham says he'll sort this out if he gets into the Department of Health in May.

Whether Labour's so-called 'mansion tax' and a promise to pump billions more into the NHS will solve it is another matter entirely.

## Deny

It makes no sense to deny the opportunity of a career in nursing to a young person for want of funding, only for another arm of the NHS to then use public money to bring someone in from overseas. That's absolutely no criticism of the foreign nurses.

At the moment they're falling over themselves to promise devolution to the English regions – something that might be a necessary sweetener if we are sold short in order to give Scotland what it wanted in exchange for not breaking up the United Kingdom.

One of the possible power handovers from Whitehall to the West



**Andy Burnham – nurse shortage**

Midlands could be around the issue of skills. There's an argument that under the coalition the oversight of education was concentrated too much in London. Is it going to be any better handing over skills to local areas without the rest of education?

The Black Country Chamber of Commerce was less than impressed by Labour's planned crackdown on employing migrant workers on low pay.

Ninder Johal thinks the party is using 'anti-employer' rhetoric while failing to tackle what he considers to be a bigger issue, namely that education isn't up to scratch. The chamber says 'our schools, colleges and universities continue to produce young people who are unemployable'. Ed Miliband is adamant that good employers have nothing to fear.

But it does expose a couple of holes



**George Osborne – same policies**

in Labour's 'guarantee' of an apprenticeship for every young person who makes the grade. Firstly, how do you guarantee a job when it requires employers to create the apprenticeship?

Secondly, what do you do about the ones who don't make the grade? Mr Miliband says Labour will help those who don't make the grade too. So that's all right then.

Thousands of jobs, hundreds of thousands of apprenticeships and hundreds of thousands of people getting the right to buy their homes; the Tory economic plan for the West Midlands is stat-tastic.

Chancellor George Osborne's announcement in the West Midlands would have been impressive, were it not essentially the same policies we've been hearing for the past weeks.

## Picture



## Recycle, Match & Win

## Item of the week



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# Life's in full bloom

*Embracing a new-found confidence, keen gardener Shirley says sharing smiles is now so totally natural*

SHE laughs easily, smiles a lot and loves company, with this 70-something-year-old enjoying a fresh confidence in her day-to-day living.

Fun-loving Shirley Foster, a passionate gardener and keen modern sequence dancer can't wait for some sunshine and watch her collection of blooms spring into life.

"I love my collection of poppies. They look stunning with their large colourful flower heads and gardening is a real therapy," she says.

Admitting she "is very privileged to be so fit", Shirley walks wherever she can – she doesn't drive – and for the first time in years is living life with spontaneity she has not known for years. Not that she has ever failed to embrace the chance to wring every last drop of living out of life, but troublesome teeth and ill-fitting dentures were for ever eroding confidence.

Her problems began when she was at school and a life dogged with dental issues followed.

"My two front teeth went bad and had to have crowns fitted on posts. It was the days of the school dentist and I had to go – everyone dreaded it. I had never been in so much pain with the treatment.

"I religiously attended the dentists every six months to try and keep out of trouble, but as the years went by I

seemed to pick up more problems and gradually started to lose my teeth with one abscess after another.

"For 30 years or more, I've had a partial top plate, but it kept breaking. The bottom plate was worse as it seemed to have a mind of its own."

Refusing to be beaten by her ill-fitting dentures, Shirley, a former employee at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, carried an essential denture rescue package wherever she went.

## Free consultation

"I'd go nowhere without a tube of fixative in my handbag – no matter what I was doing," she recalls.

"I was always putting my hand in front of my mouth and raising a finger to my top denture to make sure it was in place. Unable to do anything more for me, my dentist referred me to see someone in Birmingham but it was too far for me to travel from Wednesbury," she adds.

It was then Shirley discovered the Denture Clinic after reading an article in her local free paper.

Hoping for a solution, she booked a free consultation. Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, principal at the Denture Clinic, says: "She came to our Wolverhampton clinic and it was clear she had

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stabilisation problems with her dentures. A guaranteed solution for her bottom prescription was for over-dentures to be secured by a couple of implants. We made a high quality top denture and the combined effect of using both therapies is excellent. Not only do Shirley's teeth look great, they are also functional."

Adds Shirley: "It's lovely to have the freedom now of not having to worry about whether my teeth would pop out if I coughed or sneezed. I love to talk to people, but now I can smile as well.

"I feel confident that my teeth are secure, my bottom denture being firmly on the implant 'press studs'."

In recent years Shirley has found love second time around. "I lost my long-term partner a few years ago, but now I have a very special friend. I met him at a tea dance. Ironically, he'd just been to his dentists and heard the music and decided to pop in. I'm very privileged and my daughter helps keep my outlook young especially when I'm shopping for clothes," adds Shirley.

"I can't fault the treatment I received and I'm very pleased with my teeth. Steven was lovely and so were all the staff at the Denture Clinic and Jon Pugh's practice in Wolverhampton where the implants were fitted."

• Jon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry) GDC 62663, is principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

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Hard at work – Charles Clowes using a lathe



Concreting the base for the new tunnel



McAuliffe Group digging the cutting for the new tunnel



Mike Amith on the GNR Atlantis



Members building the signal box

# Miniature railway hobby is still on the right track



Richard Smith and the late Ron Haddock laying track

FOR more than 30 years the Wolverhampton & District Model Engineering Society has been bringing together people interested in stationary engines, traction engines, aircraft, powered boats and most of all miniature railways.

It all began when Jack Acton placed a newspaper advert and the society was formed with monthly meetings.

For 10 years they only had a portable track which they set up at country fetes and the like, but then they had the chance to build a permanent miniature railway at Baggeridge Country Park, now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday during the summer months.

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

Shortly after opening, an adventure playground was built alongside the railway, ideal for a family day out. The society is now extending the track with phase one including a new loop and tunnel.

The society still takes a portable track to a few events each year, and on Sunday, May 10 they will be laying a line through Tettenhall Station to commemorate the 90th anniversary since the line through Tettenhall was opened.

It will be the first time people will be able to ride a train through Tettenhall station since the line closed 50 years ago.



Mike Smith driving the GNR Atlantic on raised track for smaller engines

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## Meeting is for hi-rise tenants

COUNCIL tenants who live in high rise properties can raise their views at a meeting on May 19.

Supported by Dudley Council, the borough's High Rise Living Forum discusses issues relating to the estates.

It also looks at what improvements can be made to high rise properties.

The meeting will take place at Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton from 7pm until 8.30pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm. For details call 01384 815168. The meeting is open to any tenant or leaseholder living in one of Dudley Council's high rise blocks

# Figures reveal big pay rises given to NHS hospital bosses

**HOSPITAL chief executives in the West Midlands were awarded pay rises worth up to £10,000.**

An investigation into senior directors' pay packets unveiled £35 million in increases across the country despite unprecedented pressures on NHS spending.

An audit found some bosses in England and Wales enjoyed pay hikes of six per cent, well above frontline staff.

Annual accounts show that bosses of hospitals in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Dudley jumped into higher pay bands worth up to £10,000 extra a year.

**Salary**

At the Dudley Group, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, chief executive Paula Clarke was paid a salary of between £180,000- £185,000, up from £175,000 and £180,000.

At Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS

Trust, chief executive Toby Lewis was paid between £180,000-£185,000 during his first year at the trust.

David Loughton, chief executive of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust which runs New Cross Hospital and Cannock Hospital, was paid a salary of between £210,000-£215,000 last year up from a £205,000 and £210,000 band.

Medical director Jonathan Odum was paid between £130,000-£135,000 up from the £125,000 and £130,000 scale.

## Students show musical skills

STUDENTS will be showcasing their musical talent at a new music festival on May 15 attracting lots of tribute acts.

The Mayfly Festival has been organised by Halesowen College and will be at Old Halesonians Rugby Club in Wassell Grove.

The acts include tributes to Jamiroquai, The Specials, The Beatles, Def Leppard, Stereophonics, Thin Lizzy, The 1975, Duran Duran, Rod Stewart and Fleetwood Mac.

Steve McCarthy, organiser and music lecturer, said: "This festival is brand new and a great way to showcase our talented musicians. It will give them a chance to build their skills and confidence by playing in front of a live audience."

## Coach Inclusive Glastonbury Hotel Eastbourne - Sussex Coast 11th-18th July 8 Days

The Glastonbury Hotel, offers a prime position on the seafront. All rooms are en-suite with television and tea/coffee making facilities, most are accessible by lift. A warm welcome can always be assured by all the staff. This hotel offers everything you need for a relaxing holiday making sure you want to come back again. **Holiday includes coach transport, accommodation, breakfast, evening meal, four excursions plus entertainment.**



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## Life-saving medics training for hazards



James Pitt, from Tividale, squeezes through the course

IT looked like a full-blown disaster area, but skilled medics were just carrying out vital training.

The niche team of Black Country paramedics, who are called on to treat people stuck in difficult places, have been busy honing their skills at an outdoor adventure centre near Bridgnorth.

Live The Adventure, in Stottesdon, played host to the annual training of the West Midlands Hazardous Area Response Team, known as HART, by opening its doors free of charge.

The team of six were underground at the centre after their instructors set up an emergency disaster scenario where someone needing medical attention had become stuck in the confined tunnel system.

The team had to monitor the safety of the situation, get in and locate the person before carefully extracting them to safety.

Team leader Carl Cooper said: "We are paramedics who are trained in urban search and rescue and reaching and treating people in confined spaces.

"So if someone is stuck in a tunnel or sewer or there is a structural collapse and they need emergency medical attention, we can take the care to them. We have to work together to monitor the environment and extricate them."

## Group has swooped to save metal jobs

NEARLY 40 jobs have been saved after a Black Country metal pressings firm swooped to buy a Birmingham rival out of administration. The deal has created a metal pressings group with a two-year plan for sales of £10 million.

Millennium Assemblies was founded last year to look for opportunities to acquire new businesses to work alongside sister company Millennium Pressed Metal. Founded in 2000 by Anna Stevenson, Millennium Pressed Metal now employs 45 people and two years ago moved to a new 33,000 sq ft based in West Bromwich after outgrowing its Dudley home.

Anna Stevenson is working with manufacturing veteran John Faulkner, former managing director of Tipton's Cab Automotive, to create the Millennium Manufacturing Group. Its first move has been to buy JJ Engineering, at Garretts Green, saving 39 jobs. It will now be renamed Millennium Assemblies, with Mr Faulkner taking the helm.

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# Accountant must pay Christian groups £34k

AN ACCOUNTANT who stole more than £500,000 from two charities, including a Stourbridge Christian centre, has been ordered to pay back £34,000 of his ill-gotten gains.

Church members had feared they would not get a penny back from shamed accountant Stephen Methuen, who was originally from Wordsley. But this week they expressed their gratitude to investigators for recouping some of the cash.

When the courts jailed Methuen back in 2012, investigators believed he was penniless and ordered him to pay back just £1.

But after more than two years of investigations, finance experts discovered £34,000 which they tracked back to a pension pot.

Methuen, aged 60, had worked as a volunteer treasurer and accountant for Amblecote Christian Centre and over a six-year period stole the huge sum of cash.

During the previous court case, the judge heard Methuen had used the money to refurbish his home, pay off credit card debts and to help save his failing business.

## Swindled

He swindled £400,000 out of the Christian centre, in Brettell Lane, and more than £100,000 from the Christian International Relief Mission, both between 2003 and 2009.

Methuen, once of Smalman Close, now of Rubery in Birmingham, had admitted a total of 16 counts of fraud and was jailed for five years. He has since been released from prison on licence.

The courts have now ordered Methuen to pay back the cash following a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court on April 8.

The West Midlands Asset Confisca-



Amblecote Christian Centre in Brettell Lane was swindled out of £400,000. Amblecote Christian Centre in Brettell Lane was swindled out of £400,000

tion Enforcement Team had pursued the cash following his sentence two and a half years ago.

Vera Williams, who led the investigation, said: "This just shows how committed we are to ensuring people return assets they have gained as a result of crime."

"Although Methuen was jailed back in October 2012 we have remained focussed on this case and this is a great result that will see tens of thousands of pounds returned to the church."

Adrian Lowe, from Amblecote Christian Centre, said: "This is another example of the great support that police have given us as a church family."

"Both the team that led the original investigation and now the West Midlands Asset Confiscation Enforcement Team have been exemplary in the way they have handled this case."

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# Mods, rockers and old time classics



Another self-portrait exhibition entry of Sandwell youths



Pub show 'Would Jubilee've it?', from around 1975 to 1980

**MODS, rockers and old time classics** – these nostalgic photos are among hundreds of images offering an insight into life in Sandwell during the 1970s, 80s and early 90s.

The photos have been unearthed from the basement of West Bromwich Town Hall and now take pride of place in a new exhibition in the town.

The 'Unseen Sandwell' exhibition is showcasing hundreds of images taken by community group Jubilee Arts during a 20-year period of 1974 to 1994.

Many of the photographs are of the group's artistic activities while

others capture social change across the borough. The project is the brainchild of former Jubilee Arts' member Brendan Jackson who has worked with Sandwell Community Archives Service over the last four years to get the scheme off the ground.

From the 20,000 images which formed the Jubilee Arts Archive, it was a forerunner to the 'selfie' which inspired the whole project. Taken in Oak Road, West Bromwich, in 1985, the image shows four young lads with a Small Faces album.

Mr Jackson said: "I love this picture. It was taken at a community festival event. A space for self-portraits was made by dragging a large piece of chipboard around and propping it up, set-

ting up a camera on a tripod with an air release rubber bulb cable release attaché, then inviting people to make a picture of themselves.

"It was the second coming of the Mods and one of the lads insisted on going back home to get their favourite Small Faces LP from 1967, before being photographed."

Self-portrait exhibitions were one of the many activities Jubilee Arts, formed in 1974, organised across Sandwell.

The photos are on display at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus until May 27.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm. Admission is free.

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18 Investors are closing in for Baggies deal

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, April 30, 2015

FOREIGN investors are thought to be close to making an offer for West Bromwich Albion, with two overseas parties showing a strong interest in the club, according to officials.

Interest in the club in beginning to hot up after chairman Jeremy Peace set a mid-summer deadline on any deal when he put it up for sale for £200 million.

He said he does not want negotiations to interfere with planning for next season.

Albion said two overseas parties had shown strong interest in taking over the club and that the end of May would be the 'critical' point if there is to be a takeover.

Other groups are also believed to be monitoring events from afar before deciding whether to enter the battle for the club.

Club spokesman Martin Swain said: "There are a couple of interested parties and that process is continuing.

"We believe there are still others in the background who have not made quite as serious a play yet.

"The end of May is the critical moment. We will know a lot more then."

Groups from America and the Far East have made contact about potentially taking over the club but the chairman is ready to walk away from any deal if it is not completed by the start of pre-season training in July.

Warning on buying tickets to festivals

FESTIVAL-GOERS are being warned to avoid buying tickets from unofficial sources as trading standards officers launch a crackdown on fakes.

Staffordshire County Council experts have issued the advice as tickets go on sale for the V Festival at Weston Park. Anyone who suspects fakes should call helpline 01785 330356.

# Prison for pair of burglars after a string of break-ins

## Rescuer to help after Nepal quake

FIREFIGHTERS and paramedics from the West Midlands have gone to Nepal to help in the rescue operation after the devastating earthquake.

Nine West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have been deployed there, as well as three West Midlands Ambulance Service staff.

Paramedic Simon Greenfield from Oldbury was due to fly out on Monday with Humanity First Medical, which provides medical teams to disaster zones.

Medical incident officer Dr Malcolm Russell, based as an emergency doctor in Herefordshire, and Stoke-based paramedic Steve Watkins have also flown to Nepal as part of the rescue effort.

West Midlands Ambulance Service chief executive Anthony Marsh said: "Our good wishes go with all three of them as they go into what will undoubtedly be a horrific scene.

"They will, as part of the relief effort, be able to provide invaluable assistance to local communities in the stricken areas. As a trust we are pleased to be able to release these staff, who have specialist training, to be part of these organised humanitarian response teams."

Eight West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have flown out as part of the UK's International Search and Rescue (ISAR) mission, while the ninth is supporting a non-government organisation, also in a search and rescue capacity. WMFS is co-ordinating the UK's ISAR response on behalf of the Department for International Development. This will involve co-ordinating the movements of nearly 70 personnel deployed as part of the UK response and providing vital welfare support for them and their families.

The West Midlands contingent have taken heavy rescue equipment and will lead the coordination of the UK response on the ground, including vital communications, transport and IT support.



Simon Greenfield, a hazardous area response team paramedic

TWO burglars who ransacked homes during a string of break-ins across the Black Country and Birmingham, have been jailed for a total of more than eight years.

Abid Khan and Daniel Johnson hired a car which they used for their escape after raids in the Black Country and Birmingham. They also tried to get rid of thousands of pounds worth of stolen jewellery by throwing it into a garden during a police chase.

Johnson, aged 27, and Khan, 24, broke into a house in Gorsebrook Road, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton on April 8, 2013, but fled with just costume jewellery when people from a neighbouring property went to investigate.

The next day, they at a house in Dunstall Hill. Johnson broke in while Khan was lookout. He ransacked the house, stealing games consoles, expensive watches and designer sunglasses. When the family returned home, Khan sent warning texts to Johnson.

Further crimes were reported on April 28 in Birmingham, where they twice tried to get into homes unsuccessfully in Handsworth. In the second raid, in Lyndon Close, the homeowners were inside and called police.

### Jewellery

Khan was arrested from his home, on Robert Road, Handsworth, the following day and the white Seat was seized from outside the address.

Johnson's arrest followed in July 2014, when he was identified as Khan's accomplice in the earlier crimes. He was detained in Handsworth after being connected to a burglary in Birmingham New Road, Dudley, where jewellery had been stolen.

Even after he was detained Johnson tried to get away, fleeing from hospital where he was being treated for a dog bite received upon arrest.



Khan - three years and seven months

Johnson - four years, 10 months

Johnson eventually admitted his crimes and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary with intent to steal, driving whilst disqualified, dangerous driving, and escaping from lawful custody.

Sarah Robinson, aged 26, of Windsor Street South, Nechells, admitted aiding and abetting an escape from lawful custody for her part in collecting Johnson as he made his getaway.

The two men appeared before Birmingham Crown Court where they were sentenced for a conspiracy to commit burglary, having pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

Johnson was sentenced to four years and 10 months in prison.

Khan received a three-year-and-seven-months custodial sentence.

Robinson was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, last October.

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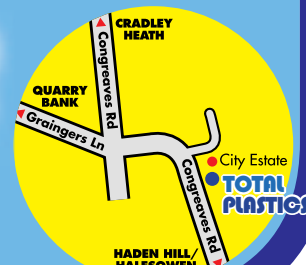
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## What rotters

Dirty Rotten  
Scoundrels  
Page 23



### Time of her life

Dirty Dancing star –  
Page 23



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## Jimmy Carr



**Saturday, 8pm**  
**Civic Hall, Wolverhampton**  
 Often described as the hardest working comedian on the circuit, and a glance at his tour itinerary shows why, the gag machine with the distinctive guffaw is back with his Funny Business show. [See www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

## ROCK & POP

Joe McElderry  
 Sat at 6.45pm, £15 - £20.90  
 Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH.  
 01902 552106

Bon Giovi  
 Friday at 7.30pm  
 £12 - £13  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 01902 401211

S Club 7  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £40.08 - £51.33  
 Genting Arena Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 0121 780 4141

Beholder  
 Sat at 6.45pm, £8.55  
 O2 Academy Birmingham B1 1DB.  
 0121 622 8250

Valous  
 Sun at 6pm, £5 adv  
 The Flapper, Cambrian Wharf, Birmingham, B1 2NU.  
 0121 236 2421

Clare Maguire  
 Fri at 8pm, £7  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 0871 472 0400

## COMEDY

Stewart Lee – A Room With A Stew  
 Sat at 8pm, £21  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 0121 780 3333

Jimmy Carr – Funny Business  
 Sat at 8pm, £27.50  
 Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RD.  
 0870 320 7000

Comedy & Carousel  
 Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 0871 472 0400

Tim Vine  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £21 - £24.20  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 01543 412121

## CLASSICAL & OPERA

Royal Ballet: La Fille Mal Gardée  
 Tue at 7.15pm, £11 - £18  
 Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.  
 01902 716055

Rachmaninoff Vespers  
 Sun at 4pm, £9.50 - £35  
 Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
 0121 780 3333

CBSO Haydn in London  
 Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 7.30pm,  
 £12.50 - £41  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 0121 780 3333

## Joe McElderry



**Saturday, 7.30pm**  
**Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton**  
 The X Factor winner in 2009, the singer from South Shields went on to win Popstar to Operastar and the first series of The Jump. The 23-year-old crooner returns with his Evolution tour. [See www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

CBSO Friday Night Classics  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £32  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham B1 2EA.  
 0121 780 3333

## COUNTRY & FOLK/BLUES

Sandpiper Folk Club Night  
 Wed at 7.45pm, £2  
 Pigot Arms, Patterningham, WV6 7BQ.  
 01902 700207

Black Diamond Singers Night  
 Fri at 8.30pm, Check for admission charges  
 The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Birmingham, B5 6AH.  
 0121 622 2599

Common Folk: Singers' Night  
 Thu at 8.30pm, £1  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall Road, WV3 4BP.  
 01922 682018

Altan  
 Thu at 8pm, £18 - £20  
 mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH.  
 0121 446 3232

Charley Pride  
 Mon at 7.30pm, £30 - £40  
 Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 0121 780 3333

The Full English  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £21.50  
 Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
 0121 780 3333

Rebecca Downes + ...  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 01902 401211

Dustin Kensrue  
 Wed at 7pm, £18.50  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
 0871 472 0400

## ALTERNATIVE & INDIE

Jack Rocks The Road To...  
 Mon at 7pm - 11pm, £5 adv  
 The Institute, B5 6DY.  
 0121 643 0428

Pinkshinyultrablatt  
 Thu at 7pm, £6 adv  
 The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 0121 643 0428

## SKA/REGGAE

Fudgestock 2015  
 Sun at 5pm, £5 - £6  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 01902 401211

Balkanic Eruption - CUMBIA SPECIAL,  
 Sat at 9pm, £6

## Stewart Lee



**Saturday, 8pm**  
**Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
 Lee hasn't had the stadium success of some comedians and that's the way he likes it. He regularly sells out venues and has the respect of other comics, although some have been known to nick his jokes. [See www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

Hare & Hounds, Birmingham,  
 B14 7JZ. 0844 870 0000

## DANCE

WaDaDa - Live Ska Reggae  
 Mon at 8pm, £10  
 Hare & Hounds, High Street, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 0844 870 0000

Catapult Club feat. Plastic Factory  
 Fri at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 0121 622 8250

## EXHIBITIONS

Artists for Ikon  
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free  
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.  
 0121 248 0708

Siân Macfarlane  
 Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 01922 654400

St Ives Artists  
 Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 01922 654400

Soldier Stories  
 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 0121 303 1966

Faith & Action  
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 01902 552055

The Poetic Impossibility...  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 01902 552055

The Current Situation  
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free  
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.  
 01902 552055

Floralia Festival  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon at 11am - 5pm,

Free. Wightwick Manor, WV6 8EE.  
 01902 760100

On The Right Tracks  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm,  
 Free, Bantock House Museum, WV3 9LQ.  
 01902 552195

Bilston's Happy Housing  
 Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, free,  
 Bilston Craft Gallery, Mount Pleasant, WV14 7LJ.  
 01902 552507

Found  
 Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm,  
 Free, New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 01922 654400

The Clive Beardsmore Gift  
 Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free  
 New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.  
 01922 654400

Love is Enough  
 Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, £3 - £7  
 Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.  
 0121 303 1966

Robert Groves  
 Fri, Sat, Sun at 11am - 6pm, Mon at 11am - 6pm, Free  
 Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.  
 0121 248 0708

A Touch of Glass  
 Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free  
 Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ.  
 01384 812750

## THEATRES

Dirty Dancing  
 Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £20 - £55  
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.  
 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard The Musical  
 Sat at 2.30pm, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE.  
 01902 573320

Collidoscope  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £12  
 Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.  
 01902 321321

Feed The Beast  
 Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £12 - £20  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.  
 0121 236 4455

## Oh What A Lovely War



**Tuesday to Saturday, 7 or 7.30pm, 2pm, Birmingham Rep**  
 Coronation Street's Wendie Peters joins the ensemble cast for a revival of Joan Littlewood's sharp satire contrasting First World War music hall songs with the carnage of the trenches. [See www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)

Rebecca  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £13.50 - £35  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.  
 0121 236 4455

First Stages - Open House  
 Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm, £6 - £9  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.  
 0121 236 4455

Oh What A Lovely War  
 Tue at 7pm, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, £13.50 - £35  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.  
 0121 236 4455

Sister Act  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £18  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 01543 412121

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15.50 - £53.40  
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
 0844 871 3011

The Pirates of Penzance  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, Sat at 2pm, £7.50 - £15  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 0121 643 5858

Sister Act  
 Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £18  
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
 0121 643 5858

A Night at the Music Hall  
 Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £14.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand, WV1 1DE.  
 01902 573320

Open Door With Bold Text  
 Tue at 8pm, Free  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.  
 0121 236 4455

Five Kinds of Silence  
 Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10  
 The Old Joint Stock, Temple Row West, Birmingham, B2 5NY.  
 0121 200 1892

Our Day Out  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £8 - £10  
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
 01543 578762

## ACOUSTIC

Tia McGrath  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15  
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 01902 401211

## HIP HOP/R&B

Mobb Deep "The Infamous...  
 Fri at 6pm, £29.81 - £112.50  
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.  
 0121 622 8250

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Keeping a watch out for Scoundrels



Scam-tastic, it's the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels cast for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre — Michael Praed (as Lawrence), Carley Stenson (Christine), Noel Sullivan (Freddy) and Mark Benton (Andre) Photograph by Paul Rider

LIVE the Riviera life in Brum next week when eagerly-awaited comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels arrives for a fortnight run at the New Alexandra Theatre.

Direct from London's West End, where it ran for a year to rave reviews and packed houses, the hit show is

based on the classic 1988 movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin as a pair of conmen operating in the South of France.

The chalk and cheese partners end up vying with each other to scam a millionaire heiress.

The cast for the May 5 to 16 run in

Birmingham is led by former Robin of Sherwood star Michael Praed as Lawrence with former Hear'Say singer Noel Sullivan as Freddy, Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton plays Andre.

They are joined by Carley Stenson from Hollyoaks as Christine, the object of their desires.

## Star role start for Jessie, 22



"Hippodrome was where I saw my first show"

A RISING star of the stage from Dudley will take on a lead role in the UK tour of Dirty Dancing when it comes to Birmingham Hippodrome.

Drama school graduate Jessie Hart, from Wall Heath, will star as Baby Houseman during the three-week run at the Birmingham theatre, which starts tonight.

The 22-year-old actress recently graduated from the Mountview of Theatre Arts in London and also appeared in ITV drama Arthur and George. She said: "Birmingham Hippodrome was where I saw the first show I can remember. I saw Miss Saigon there when I was about 11 with all my family. It was my favourite ever show and I'll never forget it. It's crazy to think that I will open my run of the tour, playing the leading role, Baby, on that same stage."

Lewis Kirk will star alongside her as Johnny Castle, the role that was famously played by Patrick Swayze in the 1987 film. It tells the story of two fiercely independent young people from different worlds, who fall in love at a holiday resort. It features hit songs, including Hey Baby, Do You Love Me? and (I've Had) The Time Of My Life.

Fans of the cult classic movie will delight in this stage version, particularly the famous set pieces including the line 'Nobody puts Baby in a corner' and the famous lift dance move that gets roars of approval. It has been adapted for the stage by the movie's writer Eleanor Bergstein and the production values are worthy of the West End.

Dirty Dancing will run at the Hippodrome until May 23.

### Rockers coming home for concert

BLACK Country rock band Martyr De Mona — who have opened for Black Stone Cherry and the legendary Slash on tour — have announced a new gig in their home region.

Described by Midlands Rocks as 'undoubtedly the Midlands' hottest band at the moment', Martyr De Mona will be taking to the stage at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on December 18.

The Stourbridge band have already supported Black Sabbath, Avenged Sevenfold, and Alter Bridge.

Tickets start at £8.80 (including booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office on 0870 3207000 or online at the www.wolvescivic.co.uk website.

### War and many a music hall piece

JOAN Littlewood's musical Oh What A Lovely War is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Directed by University of Birmingham graduate, Terry Johnson, the revival is at The Rep from May 5 to 9 as the final venue of the show's UK tour.

The satirical show about the First World War, in which songs of the era are performed against a backdrop conveying the harsh realities of war, will feature Ian Reddington (Eastenders, Coronation Street), Christopher Villiers (Emmerdale) and Wendi Peters, best known as Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street, in the cast. See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

### Ricky and co are kings of the castle

WARWICK Castle will be the location for Sounds in the Grounds this summer, a pair of concerts for rock and classical music fans.

The event will kick off on July 10 with a gig by Kaiser Chiefs, featuring singer and The Voice judge Ricky Wilson, with support from rapper Professor Green and rising star singer Ella Eyre. Then on July 11 The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra present a Proms style repertoire for flag-waving crowds. Social guest will be The Voice 2015 runner-up, Dublin opera singer Lucy O'Byrne.

For more information see www.soundsinthegrounds.com

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## What's On...

Friday 1st May	DJ MARK
Saturday 2nd May	LESLIE WILLIAMS - Female Singer
	LIVE BOXING
	MAYWEATHER VS PACQUIAO
Sunday 3rd May	BUGSY KARAOKE
Monday 4th May	BUGSY KARAOKE
Wednesday 6th May	QUIZ NIGHT
7th, 8th, 9th May	DJ MARK
Sunday 10th May	BUGSY KARAOKE
Wednesday 13th May	QUIZ NIGHT
14th, 15th, 16th May	DJ MARK
Sunday 17th May	Bugsy Karaoke
Wednesday 20th May	QUIZ NIGHT

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Historic Muncaster Castle, still a lived-in family home, is the jewel in the crown



Ravenglass & Eskdale steam railway is popular



Rivers meet sea - coastal hamlet Ravenglass lies on the estuary of three rivers



Stunning countryside will greet you

# This country break was fit for royalty and certainly suited me

ONE of the most naturally beautiful regions in England, the Lake District has long inspired the nation.

From William Wordsworth and the Lake Poets to the death of Joe McIntyre in Coronation Street, the Lakes have inspired popular culture as well as bringing in tourists with its stunning scenery and welcoming retreats.

Foremost in popularity is, of course, Windermere - the largest lake in the country. But dig a little further afield and there are plenty of fantastic finds spread across Cumbria.

Take, for example, the haven of Ravenglass. Home to roughly 200 residents it is the only coastal settlement in the region and sits on the mouths of three rivers - the Esk, Mite and Irt. Dating back to the Second

By Leigh Sanders

Century it was an important naval base to the Romans and is steeped in history.

From the visible remains of a Roman bathhouse to the stunning Muncaster Castle lying a mile or so inland, there is plenty to keep you occupied while abandoning the rigours of driving for a couple of days.

## Haunted

Muncaster is a must for anyone visiting the area. It is home to many ghostly tales and strange happenings which add to its intrigue. You can rent it out privately for any function ranging from university reunions to weddings. One of the main legends surrounds the wandering, dethroned Henry VI after a defeat in the War of the Roses.

After being given sanctuary at Muncaster, on his leaving he gave his drinking bowl

to the Pennington family declaring that as long as it stayed intact they would live and thrive in the place.

There is talk of a haunted bedroom, which needs to be seen before trying to make up your mind, while the legend of Tom Fool and his tenure as jester to the Pennington family landed the word 'tomfoolery' into our language and led to the brewing of a rather scrumptious ale in the area.

But topping all the history is the stunning views northwards over the Eskdale Valley towards Scafell Pike - England's highest mountain. Ruskin described it as 'the gateway to paradise', and standing outside the castle's main entrance you can see why. The grounds are extensive, hosting many walks, and there is the World Owl Centre - home to an extremely rare Ethiopian eagle owl. When your feet are all walked out, Ravenglass hosts three great

locations to recharge with food and drink. The Pennington Hotel restaurant, The Inn @ Ravenglass and The Ratty Arms all serve up tantalising fish dishes and a bevvy of locally brewed ales.

Other than the impressive Muncaster and the historic Ravenglass & Eskdale Steam Railway that provides transport inland to Dalegarth and Boot, there is no real need to pay entry to an attraction. Thousands of strolls await.

Once you have seen the coast it is worth heading inland to see what else the Lakes have to offer. If the tourist-orientated Windermere isn't to your taste then head north through Kirkstone Pass towards Ullswater - the second largest expanse of water. Kirkstone Pass offers too many Middle Earth-esque views to mention.

If a country break is what you require then look no further.

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May 9th -16th  
**'A DOLL'S HOUSE'**  
by Henrik Ibsen

Ibsen's classic play tells the story of Nora, wife of Torvald Helmer, who has secretly borrowed money by forging her father's signature. When her creditor threatens to expose the crime a web of lies and deceit threatens to destroy the very fabric of her life.

Ticket Prices: Mon - Tue Special Price £8,  
Wed - Sat £10, Concessions £9

**FILMS AT OLDBURY REP**

Friday 29th May  
**'Mr. Turner' (12a)** directed by Mike Leigh  
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Friday 12th June  
**'The Hundred Foot Journey (PG)'**,  
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CHOICE



Mark Harmon

**NCIS Channel 5, 8.20pm**  
The shooting of a petty officer looks like an open-and-shut case when a Russian man is found with a recently fired gun in his car. However, the investigation takes a dramatic turn when it is revealed he is working as a spy for the Department of Homeland Security. American drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that investigates cases involving the US Navy and Marine Corps. Starring Mark Harmon alongside Michael Weatherly, Pauley Perrette, David McCallum, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, Lauren Holly, Armando Molina, VJ Foster, Nolan North, Albie Selznick, Ravil Isyanov, Geoff Pierson

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 1.00 Football Focus: Championship Special. 2.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 Film: WALL-E. (2008) Pixar animated adventure, with the voice of Ben Burtt. 6.40 BBC News. 6.50 Regional Programme. 6.55 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong quizzes a line-up of contestants who work on shows with a wildlife or natural history theme. They are birdwatcher Bill Oddie and historian Tessa Dunlop. Countryfile presents John Craven and Shauna Lowry, TV gardener Diarmuid Gavin and Coast presenter Miranda Krestovnikoff, and Blue Peter hosts-turned-wildlife presenters Helen Skelton and Radzi Chinyanganya. Richard Osman is the man with the answers. **7.45 Atlantis.** Jason's discovery has blackened his heart, leaving him careless and foolhardy – so a concerned Pythagoras sets out in search of someone who can help save his friend. **8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with guest Brian Conley. **9.20 Casualty.** Connie goes on trial for Alfried's murder. Fila suspects a young girl who cut her wrists is being abused and Mac helps a woman cope with her mother, who has dementia. **10.10 BBC News; Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers and Manchester United v West Bromwich Albion; National Lottery Update. **11.55 The Football League Show. 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.15 Film: Gambling House. (1950) 7.35 Film: The Red Beret. (1953) 9.00 The Nature of Britain. (R) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) 1.00 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 2.00 James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) 2.20 Timewatch: Inside the Mind of Adolf Hitler. (R) 3.10 Timewatch: The Making of Adolf Hitler. (R) 4.00 The World's Most Photographed. (R) 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion. 5.30 Iceland – Land of Ice and Fire: Natural World. (R) 6.30 Dad's Army.** First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars. (R) **7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Neil Robertson, with both men aiming to reach their second final, and it was Selby who prevailed 17-15 in an encounter that lasted more than 12 hours. The commentary team includes Dennis Taylor, Willie Thorne and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change. **9.30 Film: Quartet. (2012)** Three former opera singers prepare for their annual concert to mark Verdi's birthday and raise funds for their retirement home. However, this year, a famous diva has joined the group, and her history with the others threatens the performance. Comedy drama, directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Toni Courtenay, Pauline Collins and Michael Gambon. **11.00 QI XL.** Extended edition. Noel Fielding, Ross Noble and Colin Lane join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kit and kaboodle. (R) **11.50 Film: Perfume: The Story of a Murderer. (2006)** Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman. **2.00 Film: Honeymoon. (2010)**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.00 Animals. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.45 Doc Martin. (R) 2.50 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 Film: The Great Outdoors. (1988) Comedy, starring John Candy and Dan Aykroyd. 5.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather. 6.00 New You've Been Framed! Unleashed! Painful pranks, below-the-belt mishaps and stunts gone wrong are on the menu in this special edition, as Harry Hill reveals some of the wildest accidents caught on camera by viewers. 7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the fourth heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals. **8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fourth audition show, as the judges – Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon – give their verdicts on more of the nation's best, and worst, performers. Queuing up to take the stage, acts of all ages and abilities are determined to prove they're worthy of the £250,000 cash prize and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but while some of them will be deserving, the dream will be over for those whose auditions are cut short by the panel. **9.15 Play to the Whistle.** Team captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests including Dermot O'Leary and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show. **10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.15 Film: Cliffhanger. (1993)** A retired mountain rescue expert is drawn into a battle of wits with a criminal searching for a lost fortune in the Rockies. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and John Lithgow. **12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Challenge Dubai. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 Frasier. (R) 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Including the 2,000 Guineas at 3.45. 4.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.20 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.20 Come Dine with Me.** Estate agent Wendy Tinnion hosts the final night in Cumbria, and her guests are in for a shock when they discover something unexpected. (R) **6.45 Channel 4 News. 7.15 For the Love of Cars.** Philip Glenister gets to fulfil an ultimate high-octane dream and drive some of Britain's most iconic police cars. Alongside him is former cop Ant Anstead, who demonstrates how to master these versatile vehicles. The duo get on work restoring a Rover SD1 discovered on a driveway in Essex, and push a 1959 Daimler Dart to the limit re-enacting the notorious "Liver Run", accompanied by out-riders on the M11, and through the busy streets of London. (R) **8.15 Film: Men in Black II. (2002)** Agent J investigates the unauthorised landing of a spacecraft and discovers a malevolent alien disguised as a lingerie model is on the verge of destroying humanity. His only hope of stopping her diabolical plot is to restore the memory of his retired partner K – but his former mentor takes more than a little convincing. Sci-fi comedy sequel, directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, starring Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Rosario Dawson, Lara Flynn Boyle, Johnny Knoxville, Rip Torn and Tony Shalhoub. **10.00 Film: Dredd. (2012)** Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey. **11.55 Stephen Merchant: Hello Ladies.** The Office co-creator's critically acclaimed 2011 stand-up comedy show, based on his experiences of the rocky road to finding love. (R) **12.55 The Last Leg. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.35 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.05 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 12.00 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 1.00 Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) 2.00 Film: Columbo Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. 3.55 Film: Secret Liaison. (2013) Thriller, starring Meredith Monroe. 5.35 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 6.30 Britain's Horror Homes.** A man who turned his house into a fortress after being burgled 10 times, and an engineer who devised a plan to reduce the risk of his property being flooded again. (R) **7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Paul Bohlil and Ben Pinne are called in to evict squatters from a residential property, and it soon becomes clear that things are not quite what they seem. Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred arrive at a restaurant in north London to collect unpaid rent, but the situation becomes heated and the debtors make accusations to the police that could ruin the High Court enforcement agents' careers. (R) **8.15 5 News Weekend. 8.20 NCIS.** A Russian man becomes the prime suspect when a petty officer is found dead, but receives protection from the Department of Homeland Security. (R) **9.10 NCIS.** The team investigates the murder of a lance corporal, whose body has been found in an empty house, and discovers he had a number of spurned lovers and a \$2million inheritance. Ducky and Gibbs interview one of the dead marine's partners, but disagree over whether she is telling the truth. David McCallum and Mark Harmon star. (R) **10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** A caped vigilante is killed while trying to protect a homeless man from a brutal gang, and footage of vandals attacking a shop on the same night offers a potential line of inquiry. **11.05 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A teenage girl is hurt in a fall, but doctors discover she is also suffering from injuries sustained in an attack, setting Benson and Stabler off on a search for her assailant. (R) **12.05 SuperCasino.**

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00 Great Movie Mistakes – Not in 3D 7.10 Top Gear 8.10 Don't Tell the Bride 9.10 Live at the Apollo 10.10 Happy Valley 11.10 Family Guy 1.25 Killer Magi 1.55 Live at the Apollo 2.55 Tatau 3.35 Vodka Diaries 4.00 Close**  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 8.00 Wild China 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Len Goodman's Big Band Bonanza 11.45 Top of the Pops: 1980 12.15 Chas & Dave: Last Orders 1.15 Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures 2.15 Wild China 3.15 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**7.00 Britain's Got Talent 12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.25 A Night in with Ollie Murs 2.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.45 Film: Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993) 4.30 Mr Bean 5.40 Film: Johnny English (2003) 7.30 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 9.15 Britain's Got More Talent 10.15 Celebrity Juice: Keith's Birthday Party 11.00 Britain's Got Talent 12.20 Britain's Got More Talent 1.20 Hell's Kitchen 2.05 Crazy Beaches**  
**ITV3**  
**11.15 Agatha Christie's Marple 1.20 Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) 3.15 Wycliffe 4.25 Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) 6.00 Lewis 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Foyle's War 11.05 Inspector Morse 1.25 Wire in the Blood**  
**ITV4**  
**11.25 Pawn Stars 2.00 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the second stage of the inaugural race. 4.00 Storage Wars 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas 6.00 Shed and Buried 7.00 Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire 8.00 Film: From Russia with Love (1963) 10.25 Film: Manny (2014)**  
**E4**  
**11.00 The Goldbergs 12.00 How I Met Your Mother 1.00 The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Big Bang 1.30 The Big Bang Theory 4.00 Made in Chelsea 5.00 Jane the Virgin 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Coming to America (1988) 11.20 The IT Crowd 12.25 The Inbetweeners 1.25 Rude Tube 2.25 Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos 3.20 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.45 How I Met Your Mother 4.30 Make It or Break It**  
**Film4**  
**11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) 1.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) 2.55 The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) 5.00 Fool's Gold (2008) 7.15 Airplane! (1980) 9.00 Season of the Witch (2011) 10.45 The Pact (2012) 12.30 Scary Movie 2 (2001) 2.10 Shutter (2008) 3.55 Close**

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## CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

**Live Snooker: The World Championship (BBC2, 7.00pm)**

Hazel Irvine presents all the latest action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. The team will certainly be able to relate to the pressure felt by the players here today. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Pets – Wild at Heart. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise – School Choir of the Year. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R).

**6.05** BBC News.

**6.20** Regional Programme.

**6.30** Countryfile. The team celebrates spring, as Matt Baker meets orphan lambs in north Wales. Ellie Harrison listens to seasonal sounds and Anita Rani visits an unusual barbecue. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**7.30** Antiques Roadshow. A visit to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow, where items include insect jewellery, a silver cup from the time of Oliver Cromwell and a claymore sword from the Boer War.

**8.30** The C Word. Sheridan Smith stars in this drama based on the blog and school by Lisa Lynch, an account of her life after being diagnosed with breast cancer. Twenty-eight-year-old Lisa's life is going exactly the way she wanted – she has recently married the man of her dreams and her career is on the up. Then out of the blue, she receives a shocking a diagnosis from the doctor that threatens to stop her in her tracks. Right from the start, however, Lisa is determined not to let cancer change her, and begins to write about her experience – unaware of the effect it will have on her life and that of others. Paul Nicholls, Haydn Gwynne and Michael Maloney co-star.

**10.00** BBC News.

**10.20** Regional Programme.

**10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester City at White Hart Lane and Chelsea v Crystal Palace.

**11.35** The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the final weekend of the regular season in League One, including Colchester United v Preston North End.

**12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead.

## BBC2

**6.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.30** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.10** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.40** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **12.40** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.40** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **2.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre.

**6.00** Flag III

David Fletcher and Anita Manning search for collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, valuing items including Murano glass figurines and a Newcastle shipyard visitors' book. Paul Martin also explores the building's State Rooms, learning about the Percy family's tastes. (R)

**7.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. The second session of last year's final took on a similar pattern to the first, with Ronnie O'Sullivan winning five frames to move into a 10-7 lead heading into the final day against Mark Selby. The commentary team features five former world champions in Dennis Taylor, Steve Davis, John Parrott, Ken Doherty and Stephen Hendry. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**11.00** W1A. Anna puts herself forward for the newly advertised role of Head of Better, and rumours circulate that Newsnight anchor Evan Davis is to be a contestant on Strictly Come Dancing. (R)

**11.30** Film: The Accidental Husband. (2008) A radio host planning her wedding discovers she is already legally married to a man she has never even met. Romantic comedy, with Uma Thurman, Colin Firth and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

**12.50** Sign Zone: Countryfile. From the Peak District, with items on making the countryside accessible to the disabled, the National Search and Rescue Dog Association, the Penine Way and preventing hayfever. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Annabelle and Zosia disagree with Guy over a special case, a new pair of shoes gets Serena into an embarrassing situation with a new admirer and Mo arranges to meet her real father. (R)

## ITV

**6.00** CITY: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.45** Film: Dragnet. (1987) Spoof crime drama, starring Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks. **4.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

**6.00** Regional Programme; Weather.

**7.00** ITV News: Weather.

**7.15** Celebrity Squares. Julian Clary, Katherine Ryan, Paul Hollywood, Ugo Monye, Hayley Tamaddon, Doon Mackichan and Paul Chowdhry join regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson in the grid. Warwick Davis hosts.

**8.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium. New series. Bradley Walsh hosts the variety show this week, with performances by Olly Murs, Madness, Alfie Boe, Jo Brand, slapstick duo Men in Coats and animal act Olate Dogs.

**9.00** Home Fires. New series. Drama about the lives of a group of Women's Institute members in a rural Cheshire community during the Second World War. In the face of an impending conflict with Germany, the Great Paxford WI faces a difficult decision. When president Joyce Cameron resigns, taking most of the membership with her, Frances Barden and her supporters must recruit new helpers from unexpected places. Starring Samantha Bond, Frances Annis, Ruth Gemmell, Claire Rushbrook and Frances Grey, with Ed Stoppard and Mark Bazely.

**10.05** ITV News: Weather.

**10.20** Perspectives: Rick Wakeman on Vivaldi's Four Seasons. The prog rock keyboardist explores the story of the famous classical piece, finding out why it disappeared into obscurity for more than 200 years after the composer's death.

**11.20** Churchill: 100 Days That Saved Britain. (R)

**12.15** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Caterham Motorsports. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Including the 1,000 Guineas at 3.40. **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.20** Film: The Karate Kid. (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan.

**8.00** For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead turn their attention to the 1980s "hot hatch" – city run-a-rounds, such as the Volkswagen Golf GTI and Peugeot 205, which became must-haves for boy racers. They help transform a Golf GTI Mk 1 into a rally car and meet hatchback fanatics to discover why people are so passionate about these vehicles and how, for some, they defined an era.

**9.00** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. New series. Jimmy Carr returns with this comedy version of the famous afternoon game show, with Sean Lock, Bill Bailey and Paul Foot going up against guest captain Sarah Millican with Rob Delaney and Rimesha Ranganathan. Nima Conti joins Countdown's resident lexicographer Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner, while Rachel Riley looks after the letters and numbers at the board.

**10.05** An Immigrant's Guide to Britain. Comedian and first-generation immigrant Henning Wehn leads an irreverent guide to life in Britain from the perspective of some of its most notoriously polarising inhabitants.

**10.35** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

**11.40** Bill Bailey Qualmpedder. Stand-up comedy from London's Hammersmith Apollo, accompanied by light-hearted musical numbers, from religious dubstep and German folk-metal to a reggae version of Downton Abbey. (R)

**12.40** Film: 12 Rounds. (2009) **2.35** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **3.30** Film: Ashad Ka Ek Din. (1971) **5.35** The Common Denominator. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Mio Mao. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **11.25** Cowboy Builders & Bodge Jobs. (R) **12.20** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Film: Blue Streak. (1999) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **3.05** Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** Film: Holes. (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf.

**7.05** 5 News Weekend.

**7.10** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.

**9.00** Film: Resident Evil: Afterlife. (2010) Premiere. Zombie-lighting heroine Alice roams the post-apocalyptic wasteland searching for human survivors. An encounter with an old friend leads her to a rumoured sanctuary in Los Angeles, but she discovers she has walked into a deadly trap and must once again battle the hordes of the living dead. Action horror sequel, starring Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter and Wentworth Miller.

**11.05** Film: Gamer. (2009) A convict is forced to take part in a violent real-life video game using mind-control technology, but plans to escape. Sci-fi thriller, starring Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall.

**12.45** Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Dr Opony sees a patient who is terrified he might have cancer. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00** Live Diving. Coverage of the World Series event in London. **8.05** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Tatau **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** Family Guy **12.15** Tatau **1.00** Teen Model Factory: Reggie Yates' Extreme Russia **1.55** Killer Magic **2.25** Flat TV **2.45** Tatau **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close

**BBC Four**

**7.00** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **8.00** National Gallery: A Film by Frederick Wiseman **10.55** Imagine – Rod Stewart: Can't Stop Me Now **12.20** Rod Stewart at the BBC **1.20** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.20** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Tsunamis **3.20** Close

**ITV2**

**12.00** Take Me Out **1.10** Scorpion **2.05** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **3.55** Film: Homeward Bound I: Lost in San Francisco (1996) **4.50** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! Yearbook **9.00** Film: Knocked Up (2007) **11.35** Film: The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) **1.45** Mom **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV3**

**11.55** Wycliffe **1.00** Film: Columbo: Lady in Waiting (1971) **2.40** Lewis **4.45** A Touch of Frost **6.50** Inspector Morse **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10** Film: The Color Purple (1985) **2.05** Secret Smile **3.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

**ITV4**

**11.50** Pawn Stars **12.45** Film: Tobruk (1967) **3.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire Live. Coverage of the third and final stage of the inaugural race. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Cycling: Tour de Yorkshire **8.00** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.45** Film: National Lampoon's Vacation (1983) **11.50** Film: Buried (2010) **1.40** I Want That Car **2.30** Whisker Wars **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**12.00** Made in Chelsea **1.00** Revenge **2.00** Jane the Virgin **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: St Trinian's (2007) **10.00** The IT Crowd **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Virtually Famous

**Film4**

**11.00** Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **1.00** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **3.15** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **5.00** Jumper (2008) **6.45** Multiplicity (1996) **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) **11.10** Monsters (2010) **1.00** 20,000 Years on Earth (2014) **3.10** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Lord of War, Channel 5, 10.55pm**  
A Ukrainian immigrant in New York sells guns to local mobsters, and when he gains access to a vast supply of Soviet weaponry at the end of the Cold War he expands his operation overseas – but makes the mistake of doing business with an African warlord. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke, Jared Leto, Bridget Moynahan, Eamonn Walker and Ian Holm. (2005)

**TUESDAY**  
**=Far and Away, Channel 5, 11pm**  
Penniless Irish farmer Joseph seeks revenge on the cruel landowner who drove him from his home. However, the landlord's daughter, desperate to escape her family, persuades him to join her in seeking their fortune in America. Romantic drama set in the 1890s, starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. (1992)



Dante's Peak, Friday, ITV, 10.50pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**A Few Best Men, BBC1, 11.20pm**  
An Englishman falls in love with a woman he meets on holiday in Australia, and asks her to marry him. However, he then makes the mistake of bringing three friends over to be his best men. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel, Laura Brent and Kris Marshall. (2011)

**THURSDAY**  
**Kinky Boots, BBC2, 10.30pm**  
A man inherits a struggling shoe factory, but salvation arrives when a Soho cabaret singer comes up with a plan for the business to manufacture specialist footwear for drag artists. However, the stunned workforce has to be won over, and the new designs prove their worth at a high-profile fashion show. Comedy drama, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. (2005)

**FRIDAY**  
**Dante's Peak, ITV, 10.50pm**  
A volcanologist's suspicions that a long-dormant volcano is about to erupt turn out to be true, prompting him to race against time to save the community standing in its way – and clash with local government officials. Disaster movie, starring Pierce Brosnan and Linda Hamilton. (1997)

Shocking case leaves a race against time

**D**o we really need another new police drama? Well, it if it's written by Paul Abbott, the man who gave us Shameless and State of the Play, then yes, we probably do.

He certainly thinks that his new series, No Offence, is filling a gap in the TV market.

The writer explains: "No Offence came after searching for a concept that would match a Shameless landscape, which is enormous. I love cop shows, I love comedies, and nobody has found a blended set of ingredients that make that work and feel like the cop series I wanted to make."

Before fans of E4's import Brooklyn Nine-Nine start raising objections, Abbott makes it clear that his series can't really be called a sitcom.

"No Offence is proudly a procedural drama, but it's not what I started writing. I thought we were getting away with writing a comedy in my head, but it was just too big and eventually it got squeezed all

the way back down to near real life but not real life – it's heightened by two millimetres – and I think it is those two millimetres that define the personality of No Offence.

"You can't call it a comedy, as it's as dark as can be... and it gets darker and darker."

He adds: "No Offence is trying to fit a square peg in a round hole and we've done it beautifully, with a set of ingredients that don't look like they should belong together, but they do."

As it's no ordinary police show, it makes sense that the team are no ordinary coppers. Led by the very capable, but slightly unlinged DI Vivienne Deering (Joanna Scanlan), and her right-hand women DC Dinah Kowalska (Elaine Cassidy) and DS Joy Freers (Alexandra Roach), they work some very mean streets, which would leave lesser officers considering a change of career, but they largely take in their stride.

Abbott says: "I love watching people being good at their job. I remember I used to watch Casualty

when all they did was complain about the agency nurses and I'd shout 'go get another job! I don't want to watch people moaning about their occupation on TV – it's like being haunted by your eight-hour shift isn't it?'"

However, in this first episode, it looks like even this apparently unshockable team – which also includes Will Mellor as DC Spike Tanner and Colin Salmon as Det Supt Darren MacLaren – are about to be confronted with one of their most difficult case as Kowalska notices a pattern connecting the deaths of two young women. It seems the team could be dealing with a serial killer – and a third girl has gone missing...

Again, it may not sound original, but that's not really the point.

Abbott says: "I don't write for shock value. I think all crimes have been seen on television before, whether on the News At Ten or in a drama. But No Offence isn't about whether you've seen them before, it's about the attitude towards them. We've done it with such dignity and humanity."



Will Mellor stars in No Offence, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**How the Other Half Eat Channel 4, 7.30pm**  
Food shopping these days isn't simply a case of nipping down to the supermarket and picking up whatever takes your fancy. Instead, there's a startling array of products on offer, from no frills items that may lack a little finesse, to the most expensive, top-of-the-range produce whose packaging is almost a work of art in itself. And then there's a heap of stuff in between. This new series follows two families who live close to each other, but whose shopping and eating habits are miles apart. They change places for four days, during which they'll sample the food usually eaten by each other's families. Once the experiment is over, we'll discover whether they go back to their old ways, or change their approach for good.

**VE Day: Remembering Victory BBC1, 8.30pm**  
On Friday May 8, it will be 70 years since Winston Churchill announced the Second World War in Europe was over, prompting Britain to throw the biggest street party the country has ever seen. David Attenborough, Bruce Forsyth, Miriam Margolyes and June Whitfield are just a few of the well-known figures sharing their memories of the

end of the conflict. Narrated by Julie Walters, with contributions from others including Johnny Ball, Honor Blackman, Jilly Cooper, John Craven, Cleo Laine, Kenny Lynch, Michael Parkinson, Leslie Phillips, Anne Reid, Esther Rantzen, Patrick Stewart and Una Stubbs. VE Day: Live from the Cenotaph is on Friday on BBC One at 2.45pm.

**TUESDAY**  
**24 Hours in the Past BBC1, 9pm**  
Living reality documentary in which six celebrities experience the working lives of the poor in Victorian times. There's no rest for the unlucky volunteers after the fifth of the dustyard as they are sent to work at a recreated coaching inn – the 19th-century equivalent of the motorway service station. Alistair McGowan, Ann Widdecombe, Zoe Lucker, Colin Jackson, Tiger Drew-Honey and Miquita Oliver find themselves constantly against the clock as there are horses to be groomed, coaches to be cleaned, guests to be fed, sheets to be laundered and chamber pots to be emptied. Will they all have the stamina to survive the long hours and relentless grind – especially with two further days to go?



24 Hours in the Past, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Inspector George Gently BBC1, 8pm**  
All good things must come to an end, but that idea won't make it any easier for Gently to deal with losing Bacchus. His right-hand man has finally been promoted, which means he will need a new sergeant. But for now, Gently's attention is taken by an investigation into the discovery of a female GP's corpse on the moors. She suffered from mood swings and motor neurone disease, which makes the detective's colleagues think she committed suicide, but Gently is convinced she was murdered – and her estranged husband becomes the prime suspect. Feisty WPC Rachel Coles grew up in the area covered by the GP's practice, and helps with the inquiry – surely she would make the ideal replacement for Bacchus?

**THURSDAY**  
**Shark BBC1, 8.55pm**  
New series. Wildlife documentary venturing below the waves to examine the ocean predators' behaviour. The first film reveals their many different hunting methods, from blacktip sharks gathering in huge packs and herding fish into baitballs, to tasselled wobbegongs, which ambush their prey. Other highlights include Greenland sharks, which live under the arctic ice, whitetip reef sharks – arguably the masters of night-time hunting – and the great white, shown stalking fur seals off the coast of South Africa.

**FRIDAY**  
**Secrets of Great British Castles Channel 5, 8pm**  
Dan Jones explores the history of Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim, one of the most ancient castles in Northern Ireland and a stronghold key to understanding the tempestuous relationship between Britain and Ireland. Dan travels to Rathlin island, where he reveals how hundreds of women and children were massacred in the name of Elizabeth I, and visits the tomb of former governor Arthur Chichester, who began a new colonisation strategy using scorched earth tactics and laid waste to much of the land surrounding the town.

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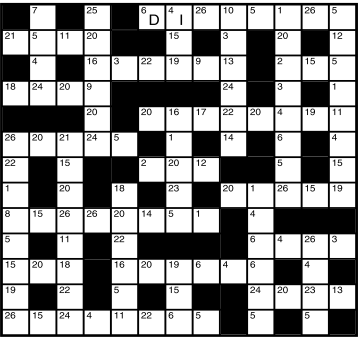
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:  
J B Q I R K N F G S U P E  
T M Y H D O X C W L A V Z

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. The way the tour is diverted to the East (5)
- 8. Becomes snarled up at corner in back-street (7)
- 9. An insult to a sea-side promenade, we hear (7)
- 10. The French travel south to Nigerian port (5)
- 12. You could find these right in the main shopping centre (4,6)
- 15. Right-handed key (6,4)
- 18. This coin was a sovereign (5)
- 19 & 13Dn. This will deceive the pupils (7,8)
- 21. Individual after different name for a flower (7)
- 22. Get to the bottom and connect the pipe-line (5)

Down

- 1. Normal, neat decorative arrangement (10)
- 2. They went round the necks of thugs, we hear (5)
- 3. Famous fiddler in Stainer oratorio (4)
- 4. What the needle produces is an acute pain (6)
- 5. Take out of gear (8)
- 6. Did some signalling, but became weary (7)
- 11. Complete black suit needed by one who goes round the course (3,2,5)
- 13. See 19 Across
- 14. Declines to put rubbish on the top of the scrap-heap (7)
- 16. Mob round the East whooped in triumph (6)
- 17. Show disdain for one who reconnoitres (5)
- 20. Betty Perkins to do some secretarial work inside (4)

Quick Clues:

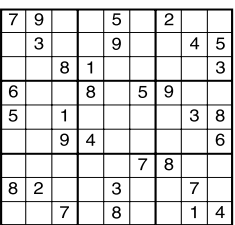
Across

- 7. Precept (5)
- 8. Flood (7)
- 9. A month (7)
- 10. Sugary (5)
- 12. Affirm (10)
- 15. Emphasise (10)
- 18. Lock (5)
- 19. Relations (7)
- 21. Dirty (7)
- 22. Goodbye (5)

Down

- 1. Book-keeper (10)
- 2. Join (5)
- 3. Door handle (4)
- 4. Famish (6)
- 5. Expectation (8)
- 6. Indefinite (7)
- 11. Huge (10)
- 13. Ominous (8)
- 14. Shriek (7)
- 16. Harsh (6)
- 17. Coach (5)
- 20. Tidy (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	3	5	1	7	6
7	6	1	3	9	4	5	3	2
5	2	3	6	1	7	9	8	4
6	4	7	5	2	3	8	1	9
9	8	2	4	7	1	3	6	5
3	1	5	9	9	6	4	2	7
2	5	9	3	6	8	7	4	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	6	9	3
1	3	6	7	4	9	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Restraint; 8 Air; 9 Incantation; 11 Artist; 12 Posts; 13 Canvas; 15 Prefire; 17 Avast; 18 Celsius; 20 Tution fees; 22 Ewer; 23 Elephants. Down: 2 Eon; 3 Rings; 4 Images; 5 Tripper; 6 Sands of time; 7 Treasures; 10 Co-tonestaster; 11 Archangel; 14 Astride; 16 Scribe; 19 Lunch; 21 Eat. QUICK - Across: 1 Prostrate; 8 Let; 9 Storm-signal; 11 Builder; 12 Baste; 13 Idiot; 15 Repose; 17 Knave; 18 Patriot; 20 Intercepted; 22 Set; 23 Respected. Down: 2 Rat; 3 Timid; 4 Aviary; 5 Ennoble; 6 Illusionist; 7 Statement; 10 Originality; 11 Briskness; 14 Creator; 16 Sports; 19 Theme; 21 Ere.

Quiz

- 1. Who is credited with discovering penicillin in 1928?
- 2. In which country are the Queen's bodyguards the Royal Company of Archers?
- 3. What was IRA man Dominic McGlinchey's nickname?
- 4. Who wrote Strangers on a Train?
- 5. Which bird has honey and rough-legged varieties?
- 6. Which country was formerly known as the Gold Coast?
- 7. Which skier is known as La Bomba?
- 8. Who wrote Our Man in Havana?
- 9. Which river divides Kentish Men from Men of Kent?
- 10. Which composer's Adagietto from his 5th Symphony was used in the film Death In Venice?

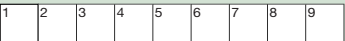
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry VIII; 2 James Herriot; 3 Essex; 4 Rene Descartes; 5 Grandsons; 6 Wild pansy; 7 Heroin; 8 Daniel Radcliffe; 9 Robinson Crusoe; 10 Inter Milan. Niner: UNLOCATED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

578 gives a nocturnal mammal,  
98678 gives a kind of weasel,  
31249 gives insects.



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## Meet the Team



### Michael Jordan LLB

Michael has been with the firm since 2006 when he joined as a trainee. He is now Managing Director specialising in Residential and Commercial Property.



### Baldeep Kooner LLB

Baldeep is a Wills and Probate Specialist advising on Wills, Probate, Powers of Attorney, Tax Planning and Court of Protection cases.



### Brinder Khara LLB

Brinder is an Accredited Family Solicitor and has been practising in the area of Family Law since 1996. She is also a Notary Public.

Recent additions to the team include Rikki Bateman and Emma Hingley. Rikki is a Qualified Solicitor specialising in Residential Property. He is vastly experienced in all aspects of buying and selling, including New Builds and Help to Buy Schemes. Emma has joined us from a local Estate Agents. She brings a wealth of experience, which will further improve the process of Buying or Selling a property for our clients and make it a smoother and less stressful process.

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Beautifully redecorated 3 bed detached house, convenient for the number 9 bus into Birmingham. This property will not last long and features 2 doubles and 1 single bedroom, 2 reception rooms, office room, large kitchen diner with fridge freezer, brand new bathroom with shower, driveway for 1 car, large rear and side garden. EPC: E**HALESOWEN, Shenstone Valley Road £695 pcm+ Fees**  
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Fully refurbished to a very high standard is this traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached house, comprising of: entrance hall, large living room/dining area, fitted kitchen, large rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Available Now. EPC: TBC**OLDBURY, Mehdi Road £625 pcm+ Fees**  
Sited in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this modern unfurnished 3 storey townhouse, comprising of: 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs wc, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC: C**ROWLEY REGIS, Halesowen Street £575 pcm+ Fees**  
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**YOUR**

**BUSINESS**

Every fast our  
customers get a  
great response  
from Classified  
Advertising.

So could you by  
calling our friendly  
experienced Sales  
Advisors on  
01902 319191.

**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

**READERS** are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering any ob-  
ligations.

**BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL**

**ONLY**

**£19.50**

**FOR 6 NIGHTS**

**PLUS**

**6 nights Free if**

**you do not sell!**

Includes one week online  
and your local Chronicle





# WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERYTIME!

## We buy any house 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.


Call Stan on

**WE ALSO BUY LAND**  
commercial and industrial premises, shops, factories, building plots...  
*We'll even buy your garden*

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and we will call you back now

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or 01902 628047 24/7 [www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk](http://www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk)





**WE PAY CASH!**



**SELL FAST**

- Property investor needs properties in your area
- Cash payments
- We will cover all your fees
- Quicker service

AND GET A BETTER PRICE

01922 689023  
0800 731 1160

## CASH NOW

### FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal fees paid
- Guaranteed offer
- Any condition
- No fees
- Repossessions stopped
- Subject to terms

# 01902 628060

# 0800 389 6788

Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

wolverhampton properties

# 2

we can buy your house in

days



**national homeowners**  
[helpline.co.uk](http://helpline.co.uk)

in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

**WE PAY MORE**  
ANY AREA ANY CONDITION

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24/7 0800 085 6626

24/7 0121 274 0398



## sell quick

- No Fees\*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area\*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

\*subject to terms Property Investment Group

0800 169 1118 call free 24 hours 01384 226087



**Private Investor**

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

Telephone  
**01922 689023**

straight forward investment solutions

## I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer\*
- Free solicitors
- Terms apply
- Any condition
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GUARANTEED

24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822**  
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Part of the PI Group



**STOP WE PAY MORE!**

100% every time\*  
Free Solicitors No Fees\*

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01384 226086

PI Group \*Subject to terms



**SICK**

of trying to sell your house

Call the HOUSE DOCTOR

Now for the best price

0800 783 3225

01922 689023

A  
B  
C  
D

Better  
Cash  
Deal

It's a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES

0121 308 7786

0800 917 1233

One phone call solves all your problems sell your house now

A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances



01902 628047

0800 633 5226

**Sell your house**

We are just a phone call away

- Any circumstances
- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

0800 066 5558

0121 274 0398

Cash paid for your property

Guaranteed offer\*

Free solicitors - no fees\*

NOW

call us  
0800 085 2455  
0121 308 7786

\*Subject to terms

Aston Wood Properties

the name you can trust

**Harrison Fowler**

Any property, Any condition

FREE valuation

FREE solicitors

No obligation

No fees

Fast completion

0800 587 2422 / 01902 628060 24 hours

\*Subject to terms



**STOP! problem property?**

Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us... we will buy your house whatever the problem

no problem

0800 783 0008 / 01902 628059

I BUY ANY HOUSE

4 CASH

QUICK AND EASY

call Alex

0800 111 441

01543 499 032

Anytime



**STRAIGHT TALK**

FAST CASH OFFER FOR YOUR HOUSE

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01902 628060

**Need Fast Cash?**

Buying property since 1984

**THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE**

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01384 226087

24/7

**DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY**

for a fast cash offer

01384 226 087

0800 633 5288

**NO STRINGS**

Local Investor pays you more

Call any time

0800 633 5226 / 01922 689023

**CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW**

\*Local \*Honest \*Reliable

0800 389 6788

01384 226086

**PICK UP the phone CALL NOW**

Best Price Sam

01543 499032

0800 500 3109

**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

Call today for a best price

0800 731 1160

0121 274 0398

6

Property

properties wanted

**HOME CASH BUYER**

WILL PAY 15K MORE

Complete within 7 days

**Ring Paul,**

07870 341089

**A A PROPERTIES PAY A better cash price.** Call Richard 07756 022973.

**A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL**

We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626

**A BEST CASH DEAL PAID**

for your property every time 01902 628047

**ALWAYS CALL US FIRST**

for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

**WE ALWAYS PAY MORE**

for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

**I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE**

\*ANY AREA \*ANY PRICE \*ANY CONDITION\*

CALL PAULA ON

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INDEPENDENT \* LOCAL \* CONFIDENTIAL \*

**accommodation to let**

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**PERTON: MODERN ONE Bed**  
Ground Floor Flat, with parking No DSS. £85pwk. 07947 628039.

**RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and 2 bed flats,** Netherton, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

**SMART ROOMS** in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07940 116130

**TWO BED flat** above shop, Gornal, near Sedgley, CH, DG, £475pcm. 07852 225618.

**flats for sale**

**TWO BEDROOM MAISONETTE** for sale, Kidderminster. £72,000 ono. Call 07730 477985 for details.

**mobile homes**

**HOLIDAY HOME,** 2 bedroom, lovely site near Ludlow, clubhouse, gym, golf course, £55,000 ono. Telephone 07743 147270.

**overseas property**

**NOTICE TO READERS** Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**coast & country**



**THREE BED HOLIDAY LODGE**

Near Welshpool, refurbished, site fees paid till 2016, prime position on lake, own fishing peg, swimming pool, tennis court, club house.

£57,000 ono.

For further details call 07727 408770 / 01568 612391.

BUY  
LOCAL  
SELL  
LOCAL

01902 317878



Classified Ads



CALL US NOW TO SAVE

FREEPHONE 0800 146 540

## Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!

- ✓ Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- ✓ Get up to 100% of the market value
- ✓ Free valuation. Free consultation
- ✓ 100% Confidential. No obligation

Fast Sale Maximum Value





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NO OBLIGATION  
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# 7 Jobs

**courses**

**TOP GEAR**  
Driver Training

- LGV / PCV Training
- 1-1 Gold Standard tuition
- Free Assessments
- CPC Courses
- Driver Medicals
- Caravan & Horse Box Tuition available

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**SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE**  
"QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS"

**FREE ASSESSMENTS • FREE THEORY TEST TRAINING**

HGV, PCV, ALL LICENCE CATEGORIES.  
DRIVER CPC COURSES & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT COURSES

CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR POP IN AND SEE US

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**full time - general**

**MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WANTED**

**SALARY - COMPETITIVE WITH O/T, INCENTIVISED BONUS & PENSION SCHEME**

We are the UK's number 1 supplier of mobile vehicle lifts. A position has become available to join our existing team of experienced engineers repairing and refurbishing electro-mechanical lifting columns.

The successful applicant will be a time-served mechanical/electrical engineer with excellent fault-finding skills and a strong knowledge of assembly and dismantling. Experience in machine control panels would be an advantage. The individual must be highly motivated, capable of working under their own initiative as well as performing as part of a team.

To apply for this position email a copy of your c.v. to [craig.bayliss@stkare.co.uk](mailto:craig.bayliss@stkare.co.uk) or call 0121 585 2700

# 8 Motoring

**cars over £1500**

**SELLING YOUR CAR?**

We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as

**£19.50 for 6 nights**  
Plus  
6 nights free if you do not sell.

**CALL**  
**01902 317878**

**FORD FIESTA** Style 57 plate, 27,000 miles, excellent condition. £3,800. 01902 404438.

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC CLIMATE** 1.2 2008, 25k, FDSH, MOT Sept, tinted rear windows, excellent condition £3,350 ono. 07548 511612.

**FORD FOCUS LX**, 2005, 62,800 miles, grey, 5 door, 12 months MOT, £2,600 ono. 01384 412118.

**MAZDA 6 SAKATA** 2005, 49,000 miles. Sparkling silver. FSH. Full MOT. Air-con. One owner from new. CD player. **£2,400 ono.** Telephone 07973 667965.

**PEUGEOT 206** Metallic Blue. 1.4 diesel, 4 door, 56 plate, 64k, new cam belt and tyres. MOT. £2,200 ono. 01384 864058.

**PEUGEOT 207 VERVE** 2010, 9,528 miles, metallic grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, long MOT. One owner from new, genuine reason for sale. **£4,500 ono.** 07722 510732.

**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT**, 08, silver, 5dr hatchback, 12 months MOT. EW. 71k, £2,495, o.n.o. 01384 826119 or 07948 961078.

**nursing & carers**

**CARE WORKERS** -Tipton Home-care Ltd are seeking Carers for Halesowen & Dudley areas. Must be reliable, honest & trustworthy. Full time/part time positions available (must be available to work weekends), £7.30 p.h. +10p a mile fuel allowance. Driver preferred but not essential, a DBS (CRB) will be required. Tel Donna Doughty/Stuart Higgins 0121 557 3649. Email Donna.doughty@tiptonhomecare.co.uk

**BILLY THOMAS**  
HGV Driver Training

**DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**  
HGV C+E (ARTIC) & C (RIGID)  
7.5T (C1) SMALL LORRY  
C&E TRAILER (B+E)  
MINIBUS (D1)  
1-2-1 TRAINING  
INITIAL CPC TRAINING & ADR  
CPC Periodic Training for PCV & LGV from 7th blocks - Full 35hr

**01902 744726 / 07831 646601**

**VAUXHALL CORSA**  
2008, (58 plate), 31,000 miles, silver, full MOT.  
**£3,795 ono.**  
**07773 207550.**

**cars under £1500**

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDER**  
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**FORD MONDEO** 2 litre diesel, 55 reg, Drives perfect, £725. 07885 772238.

**JAGUAR S TYPE**, SE auto, silver, X reg., excellent condition, full leather interior, sat nav, multi CD player, extras, £1,150 ono. 07411 958454.

**PEUGEOT 206** 1.4, (05), silver, 5dr, long MOT, 30,000 miles, A/C, PAS, CD player, £1,250 will accept offers 07971 381000.

**PEUGEOT 206** 2.0 Turbo Diesel Sport, 2004, 5 door, black, 100,000 miles, MOT, excellent condition. 0595. 07851 213316.

**PEUGEOT 306 ESTATE**, 1999, silver, 1.9 Diesel, 65,000 miles. MOT Oct 2015. £650 ono. 01384 256413.

**RENAULT CLIO** 03, 1.5DCI, 60mpg, silver, 2-dr, £30 tax, tidy inside/out, alloys, stereo, MOT, 123k, £1200. Wombourne 07713 480661.

**RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS** 2007, 66k miles, silver, good condition, abs, tinted rear windows, MOT, Stereo, CD £1,195 ono 0121 5572706.

**RENAULT MEGANE**, 2005, 68,000 miles, silver, MOT to March 2016. £995. 01384 287029.

**ROVER 75** Diesel, automatic, 2002, full MOT, silver, low mileage, very good condition, first to see will buy, £1050 ono. 07714 992907.

**SAAB 9000CD** Griffin 3.0 V6, good condition. MOT Feb 16, all electric, £5000 ono. 07547 265879 or 01902 307730.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** 1.6 53, runs but engine fault, many new parts, £425 o.n.o. For details 07738 388049.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA LS**, 1.9 5dr, hatch, blue, 03 Reg., petrol, 90k, fish, MOT, CD radio, very good condition. £600. 01384 351704.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA Y** reg. 2001, 1.8, petrol, grey, FSH, 77,600 miles, CD, 2 months MOT. £595. 07828 42486 / 0121 522 4939.

**VW GOLF** convertible, silver, AC, EW, alloys, used daily, MOT July, £475 ono. 07801 541760.

**VW POLO**, 03, silver, 3 door, 80k, MOT, full service history, CD player, Great condition, cheap to run, £1,375 ono. 07535 074158.

**vehicles wanted**

**alan reed cars**  
Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.  
**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**CROWN MOTORS** Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars and vans. Call 07585 654389.

**spares & accessories**

**mobile mechanics**

**MOBILE MECHANICS** Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

**9 Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk) (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

**classic cars**

**CLASSIC CARS WANTED**  
Private cash buyer Instant cash settlement. Any age, any condition. Call Market Drayton. 01630 652993.

**commercial vehicles**

**FORD TRANSIT** 07 reg, noise from engine, on sorn, sold as seen, offers over £600. 07976 979095.

**driving tuition**

**Homer's**  
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.  
**10 Hours £99 Five Hours £50! 2 Hours £20!** All Areas Covered  
**MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS**  
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC  
AD/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.  
**07970 200066 / 01922 780250**  
**01562 870050 / 01384 234954**  
**01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090**  
**01902 580065**  
[www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk](http://www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk)

**motorbikes**

**HONDA DAX C90**  
MONKEYBIKE REPLICA  
Condition mint, in red, 12 months MOT, 1,130 miles from new, 04, 150mpg, perfect for commuting or back of motorhome. £500. No offers. 01384 634083/07796 071219

**KAWASAKI** 1995 ZXR6R Exceptional, clean, low miles example will come with new MOT, £1,895. 01902 330328.

**ROYAL ENFIELD** 350 Bullet, 07 reg, black, mint condition, 2000 miles, £1500. 01384 830877.

**YAMAHA YZF R1** 1000, 21,000 miles, 61 reg, 12 months MOT, blue, run and rides mint, £2,000. 07789 541492.

**scrap vehicles**

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**IMMACULATE**

**PEUGEOT 1007 SPORT**  
Little use, garaged, July 2006.  
Semi auto.  
Red metallic.  
Only done 2,397 miles from new.  
Alloys, alarm, CD player, etc.  
Real bargain at £2,900 o.n.o.  
**01902 608073.**

**IMMACULATE**

**TOYOTA YARIS** 1.3 T3, 5dr, 52,000 miles, silver, FSH, 04 plate, MOT, 2 owners only, £1,975 ono. 07810 786578.

**VAUXHALL CORSA** 1.4, blue, 90,000 miles, MOT, new shape, excellent condition, bargain £1,895. 07939 483221.

**VOLVO C30 R** Design Sport, 2009, 54k, diesel, superb condition, fish, 12 months MOT and service, bargain £6,750. 07768 174722.

**VOLVO S40** diesel, 69,000 miles, FSH, 55 reg, MOT Oct, AC, metallic blue, excellent condition, £3,995 ono. Kingswinford 07775 752851.

**scrap vehicles**

**FreeAds**

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

\*Advertise any item **FREE** up to the value of **£250** go to:  
[www.expressandstar.com/bookanad](http://www.expressandstar.com/bookanad)

Simply click the FreeAds icon **FreeAds**

\*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 5 lines maximum.

**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: 01902 408176  
1000's of parts available at all times  
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

**1st CHOICE**  
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!  
VANS! CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!  
ANYTHING CONSIDERED FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOURS 7 DAYS  
**01902 562853 / 07977 499516**  
**07895 346811 - 24 hrs**

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available  
**0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.** Evening 07813 184611  
Oldbury Area.

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**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: 01902 408176  
1000's of parts available at all times  
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

**GENUINE 58 YEAR OLD MALE**

From Wolves, slim, non smoker, own house and car, looking for younger female for friendship, maybe more.

**Box Number P19787**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GOOD LOOKING MALE 54**  
Slim to medium build. Loyal, caring and romantic. Own house and car. Enjoys weekends away and holidays abroad. WLTM attractive, slim female, similar age for long term relationship. Photo please, returned.

**Box Number P19796**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**MALE, 52 SLIM, 5FT 10INS**  
Black hair, brown eyes and tanned, Asian/English. Loving, kind, caring, sincere, easy going, romantic, sensitive, spiritual, friendly. Own business. Looking for a female soulmate to share my life with. Age unimportant. Single Mums welcome.

**Box Number P19795**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**SINGLE GENT, 56**  
wishes to meet lady, similar age, for fun, friendship, may be LTR.

**Box Number C19793**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**sports clubs**

**BRIERLEY HILL BULLETS**  
Charter Standard Club  
Requires players for UNDER 7's, 8's, 9's and 10's for next season.  
Also if you are looking to manage a team please contact us.  
Tony on 07977 308189 or Keith on 07896 666589.

**general**

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# Volvo dealership initiatives

By James Parker

With the imminent launch of the all-new XC90 marking a new chapter in its history, Volvo Car UK is setting new standards for its dealerships nationwide and introducing two new initiatives, Volvo Personal Service and Volvo Retail Experience.

The new concepts are designed to remove some of the perceived barriers between dealers and their customers and improve trust, customer service and overall impressions of the brand.

Volvo Retail Experience focuses on the space and design of the dealership and is designed to reflect Scandinavian-inspired values of calm, clean lines with 'cool on the outside and warm on the inside'-style architecture.

The aim of VRE is to create an environment for customers in which high levels of visual transparency are key. Large exterior and interior glazing allows customers to see all activity in the new workshops, turning the spotlight on what is often regarded as 'back of house'. Inside the showroom, there is a balanced focus on physical and digital presentation, making sure the sales and service areas are completely integrated to deliver an open, holistic environment.

Phil Hand, head of network development for Volvo Car UK, said: "VRE has been designed to tackle the challenge of bridging the gap between an ever-improving market sector and the current Volvo dealership

customer experience. Workshops are integral to the customer experience, so being able to see in and out of the 'window' between the dealership spaces becomes a symbol of trust between Volvo and our customers.

"VRE isn't just about a change of furniture though – it's a new way of retailing designed to make our customers feel relaxed and at ease in an environment that informs and provides flexible waiting, working and assessment areas."

## Intelligent

Len Hallows, managing director at TMS Hinckley – the latest dealership to reveal the VRE design, added: "The most critical aspect of VRE is that it finds more intelligent and appropriate ways of utilising available space within a dealership, balancing the overall appearance and presentation standards with the ability to operate in an uncluttered environment."

"We have already witnessed a change in customer attitudes when they visit the dealership by being able to relax more in our comfortable 'living room' area whilst they can see their vehicle in the workshop."

Also new to the Volvo network is Volvo Personal Service, which streamlines after-sales functions to improve workshop efficiency, job throughput and revenue opportunities for dealers, while delivering a much more personal service to Volvo customers via a dedicated service technician.

VPS, the new name for Volvo's 'One Hour Stop' service, is shaped by trust, transparency and respect for a customer's time. It works by utilising teams of Personal Service Technicians (PST) working on cars as groups rather than individually. This



**'The most critical aspect of VRE is that it finds more intelligent and appropriate ways of utilising available space'**

allows for work to be carried out twice as fast, nearly halving customer wait times.

PSTs then become a single point of contact for the customer, who knows that the person they are talking to is the person directly responsible for their car. This personal relationship builds trust and transparency and helps ensure greater clarity and efficiency.

Volvo Car UK has worked closely with dealerships where necessary to adapt existing roles for service advisors and managers who will continue to oversee workshop and service operations ensuring no

headcount loss during the implementation of VPS.

David Baddeley, VCUK customer service director, adds: "Delivering the Personal Service programme isn't simply the implementation of another 'initiative', it's about delivering a complete, and uniquely Volvo, aftersales customer experience."

"Keeping pace with new car technology, engineering and design, while integrating operations and aligning departments, developed a need for a change in how things are done and Volvo has tackled this head on with VPS."



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<p><b>10/10 Renault Clio 1.5 DCI Dynamique TomTom Diesel Estate</b> *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX* 77k, Beige, Sat Nav, Air Con, CD <b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>08/08 Nissan Micra 1.2 16v (79bhp) Acenta+</b> 3dr, 48k, Grey Metallic, *LOW INSURANCE* Air Con <b>£3995 / £19 Per Week</b></p>
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<p><b>03/03 Mercedes E220 CDI Diesel Classic</b> 100k, Beige, Full Cream Leather, Alloys, CD, Air Con <b>£4295 / £21 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>05/05 Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente</b> 5dr Automatic, 75hp, ONLY 25,268 miles, Black, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£2995 / £17 Per Week</b></p>
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# Pumped up and pimped out Range Rover Sport

By James Parker

**A regular supercharged Range Rover Sport not enough for you? Then try the first product to come from the newly-formed Special Vehicle Operations – the SVR.**

At first glance, the Range Rover Sport SVR should be recognisable, if somewhat different from how you remember it. This is the pumped-up, pimped-out Sport, and while that might seem a world away from a typical Range Rover, the reality is buyers want more – which the SVR supplies in spades.

So with an SVR, you get 20in wheels (with the option of 21s) and other modest external flourishes including more vents at the front, side skirts and a large spoiler on top of the tailgate. More importantly there's more power under the bonnet from the 5.0-litre supercharged V8 and revised damper settings for better control.

The interior also gets some smart new seats and a retrim. If it's subtle you're after, then the SVR might not be for you. Sure, finished in black you might mistake it for a standard car, but one brief blast from the exhaust will change all that. It squats on its huge wheels and the big front air vents – essential for cooling the engine and brakes – certainly give it some significant menace. It's clear that Land Rover is going Porsche chasing with the SVR, and although the name tag is new, it probably won't be long before the SVR logo signifies business.

Happily the SVR doesn't give away much in the way of practicality compared to the standard Range Rover Sport. The only concession is the reshaped rear seat, while still offering three seat belts is really optimised for two. However, there's still plenty of space front and rear, and although it's not as big as a full-size Range Rover, you should be able to deal with most eventualities. It even retains a useful amount of off-road ability; quite a lot more than anyone spending this much money would dare use in any case.

### Snarl

Right from the moment you start the engine, the SVR lets you know that performance is the name of the game. There's a snarl from the exhaust that wouldn't be out of place in something with two seats, and there's the performance to back it up; the SVR has 543bhp to power it along and you hear every single one of them as it tears along.

For a car weighing 2.3 tonnes, the SVR is hilariously fast. It doesn't fall apart when you try to do something other than go in a straight line either. Sure it's tall, but the steering is sharper than the standard car and helps you accurately place it on the road. The suspension changes are modest, but the SVR can be hurled about with impressive ease for something so large, and the brakes are more than a match for the performance.

Ultimately it's huge fun, but capable of being calm and controlled when you need it to be.

Make no mistake, the SVR is an expensive car; £93,450 before options to be precise, but then you are in no doubt that you're getting a lot for your money. The sporty new seats, leather everywhere, a slick infotainment system (although there's a high-end Meridian system for another £5,000), climate control, reversing camera – you name it. It's worth remembering at this end of the market, price isn't so much of an issue as it is a badge of honour.

Anyone who thinks the standard Range Rover Sport Supercharged – 0-62mph in 5.5 seconds and 155mph flat out – isn't quite fast enough will love the SVR, and while that might seem like a pretty small audience, the truth is the SUV market continues to grow whether you're spending £10,000 or £100,000.

It's no harder to live with than any other Range Rover (with the possible exception of petrol station visits) yet is undoubtedly more fun than any other.

This car summed up in a single word: Grunty.

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## Yeltz aim to cash in on Albion £50 price rise

HALESOWEN TOWN has slashed season ticket prices – in an attempt to lure disgruntled Albion fans who are facing a hike in the cost of watching their team and hopefully boost their attendances at matches.

The Yeltz, who start their second campaign in the Northern Premier League in August, are offering an early-bird price of £150 – which is down from the original price of £190 for adults – until May 17.

The move comes as Albion revealed it was increasing its own adult season tickets by £50, meaning that they will then range from £399 up to £548.90 for the 2015-16 season.

Yeltz commercial manager Chris Lambert said: "This is not only to reward fans' loyalty this season but also to attract a new ever increasing fan base.

"Albion fans have seen their tickets go up by £50 so we are appealing to them or anyone who want to watch affordable competitive football."

"It's absurd that team are deciding to increase ticket prices with the amount of TV money coming in the Premier League this season," added Mr Lambert.

Yelts senior and student season tickets are prices at £100, while for under-16s it is £50 and for the under-12s are free providing they are with a paying adult or senior.

Match prices at The Grove have also been frozen for next year.

The ticket prices will remain at £10 for adults, £7 for seniors and students, £3 for under-16s, and free for under-12s providing they are attending with a paying adult or senior.

# McAuley deal is a 'no-brainer'

CHRIS Brunt believes offering Gareth McAuley a new deal this summer should be a 'no-brainer' for Albion.

The 35-year-old defender's current contract expires in the summer but Brunt believes his fellow Northern Irishman still has plenty to offer the Baggies.

McAuley endured a frustrating first half to the season but has been a regular fixture in the team under Tony Pulis.

And Brunt said: "Since he got back into the team just before Christmas he's done very well and he's been very consistent. You only have to look back over the last four years and see just how consistent

he has been. "He has probably been our most consistent performer so I think that's a no-brainer.

"I think everybody at the club will want him to stay.

"All the lads want him to stay because he's great to have around the place and he works unbelievably hard at his game for somebody who's getting on a bit."

Brunt also believes no-one should be fooled by McAuley's age, adding: "He's a freak – he's a fit lad for his age and he looks after himself well.

"That's credit to him. He came into the game late and he obviously wants to play at the highest level for as long as he can so fingers crossed he can get

something sorted." McAuley is among players out of contract in the summer and Brunt believes everyone has a point to prove over the final four games, ahead of Pulis' first summer at the Hawthorns, adding: "With the new gaffer here I'm sure he will have a big say in what goes on over the summer," explained the 30-year-old.

"Regardless of what anybody thinks about whether we're safe or not, everybody has still got points to prove over the last few weeks of the season, whether they want to stay or want to leave. It's in everybody's best interests to play out the season to the best of their ability and try to get points for West Brom."

# Prospective Albion buyers check books

**TWO possible buyers were inspecting Albion's accounts as new figures revealed the Baggies spend a bigger portion of their income on wages than any other Premier League club.**

Two prospective new owners – including one from the Far East – have begun checking the books ahead of a possible takeover bid in the next six weeks.

And the news came as new figures showed more than 75 per cent of the club's income was spent on wages last season.

That was the highest percentage in the Premier League last term with only relegated Fulham rivalling the Baggies' figure.

In the year ending June 2014, Albion spent 75.5 per cent of their £86.8 million turnover on staff, with the vast majority of the £65.5m wage bill made up of players' salaries.

## Relegated

Albion's income last season was the third lowest in the Premier League with only Hull (£84.5m) and relegated Cardiff (£83.1m) bringing in less money.

But the Baggies' wage bill was the 12th highest in the division.

Albion announced a club record pre-tax profit of £14.7m with both the turnover and wage bill the highest in their history.

The figures also showed the Baggies had the second lowest number of full-time staff among the 20 Premier League clubs with 159, with only Crystal Palace (142) having fewer full-time employees.

Meanwhile, a possible takeover is moving closer with two interested parties examining the books before deciding whether to bid, with chairman Jeremy Peace wanting a deal in place in principle by the end of May, although detailed takeover talks could extend later into the summer.

If no deal is advancing by the end of next month, Peace will halt his search and commit his own future to the club.

Several other possible buyers are still in talks while agents have contacted Peace claiming to represent businessmen.

But just two groups have so far started their 'due diligence'.

## Lescott happy with first season



Joleon Lescott presented with the Disabled Supporters Club Player of the Year trophy by Harry Mitchell

ALBION star Joleon Lescott insists he has enjoyed his first season at The Hawthorns despite the Baggies' season of struggle.

Lescott, who won the club's first end-of-season award, says he has relished a return to regular action after moving from Manchester City.

"I enjoy playing," said the 32-year-old. "That's what I came here to do.

"As a club and a team we had an ambition and a goal to stay in the league and that's still ongoing, but there's no substitute for playing football regularly.

"There have been ups and downs but our end goal hasn't changed and if we hit those it's an achievement.

"The club's ambition is to be a long-standing Premier League team.

"This season would be their sixth in a row in the Premier League, which would be an achievement in itself."

Lescott was named player of the season by the disabled section of the West Bromwich Albion Supporters' Club, at their annual open day at The Hawthorns. Lescott received his trophy from seven-year-old fan Harry Mitchell. "Any award is a good award," he said.

## Dyer gets hard-fought winner for the Blues

### Blues 1 Charlton 0

LLOYD Dyer emerged as Birmingham's match-winner in a hard-fought 1-0 Championship success over Charlton.

Dyer, a second-half substitute, demonstrated his shooting ability with a 20-yard angled shot in the 82nd minute which plunged plucky Charlton to only their second away defeat in six games.

Birmingham's win mirrored the success which has been generated since the appointment of Gary Rowett.

He has been inspirational and following their midweek success at Reading it was hardly a surprise that Birmingham were always in an attacking mood.

This was reflected in the fourth minute when Robert Tesche produced a speculative long-range swirling shot which Stephen Henderson tipped on to the outside of the post.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson attempted a similar tactic for Charlton but it lacked the power to pose any real problem for goalkeeper Darren Randolph.

There was a spark of inspiration from Demarai Gray but the youngster was effectively stopped in his tracks by former Birmingham stalwart Roger Johnson.

Youngster Gray is used sparingly by Rowett, who likes to restrict him to home games when he is given to shine in front of the club's fans.

His first effort was easily saved by Henderson while his second curling attempt hit the outside of the post.

It was a fair reflection of the game that Charlton were always a danger.

## Man City kills off comeback for the Villa

### Man City 3 Villa 2

SUBSTITUTE Fernandinho struck a late winner as Manchester City killed off Villa's comeback to claim a 3-2 victory at the Etihad Stadium.

City looked to have thrown away victory as Villa recovered from 2-0 down with second-half goals from Tom Cleverley and Carlos Sanchez but Fernandinho had the final word in the 89th minute.

Goalkeeper Brad Guzan when, seemingly under no pressure, badly miskicked a Ron Vlaar backpass and effectively gave Agüero an open goal.

Naturally, City's ace marksman accepted the chance and slid home.

City looked to have made the game safe with Kolarov's superb free-kick. Cleverley then scored for Villa. Then Sanchez took full advantage of Hart flap.

Fernandinho hit the winner.

## Grapple champ Chinu to fight for country

AN Olympic wrestler who trains in Birmingham has been chosen to represent his country in a contest first.

Chinu, aged 27, from Oldbury is a British and England freestyle wrestling champion and is the only man chosen to represent Great Britain in the first ever European Games in Azerbaijan.

The accomplished wrestler, who trains at the Fearless Wrestling Club, Birmingham is seven times British champion, five time English champion and won a bronze medal in super heavy weight 125 kg category at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last year.

The champion, who has been wrestling since he was a child, has also trained at Wolverhampton Wrestling Club, Cannock Road, Park Village.

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## Halesowen looking to bounce back

HALESOWEN head into this weekend's home game with Penkridge looking to bounce back from a losing start to the season.

The first team face Penkridge at Seth Somers Park on Saturday and will be licking their wounds after the defeat at the hands of Tamworth.

And to complete a miserable weekend for the club, the seconds were also defeated.

Skipper Faisal Shahid said: "There are lessons to be learnt from both these defeats. It was good to welcome the new boys into the team on Saturday but we made some basic errors."

The early season format of 50 over result matches saw Tamworth firsts win the toss at home and elect to bat first.

Lively opening spells from both skipper Faisal Shahid and Eddie Rhodes saw the ball go past the outside edge countless times but with little reward for the bowlers despite keeping the run rate down in the early stages.

It was the change bowlers that took some punishment from the Tamworth batters who went on to amass a big 272-6 from their 50 overs with solid contributions from Flower 80, Burrows 73 and Maddox 52.

Needing to score at 5.5 an over the Halesowen innings got off to a solid, if unspectacular, start with Hassan Qaumi and Faisal Shahid putting on 50 for the opening wicket.

However, the run rate was never challenged and by the time new signings Harry Ellison and Will Barrett got to the crease the asking rate was close to double figures. Wickets fell at regular intervals and Halesowen were out for 198.

A more competitive game at Seth Somers Park saw Tamworth seconds also win the toss and opt to bat first posting 256-8 from their 50 overs.

## Tipton take the drop but manage to go out on a high

**Tipton 1 Lye Town 0**  
KALUM Evitts drilled home a free-kick three minutes from time to give Tipton Town a 1-0 win over Lye Town.

Tipton could do nothing to prevent their relegation on Saturday, but gave the home fans something to cheer as they bid farewell to the Midland League Premier Division season.

Keeper Jack Hayfield and the Tipton defence withstood plenty of pressure, and their bravery was rewarded when Evitts' came up with the late winner at least giving a his side a chance to out with a victory.

Bilston 2 Dudley Sports 2  
Bilston Town shared the spoils with visiting Dudley Sports, drawing 2-2 in the West Midlands Premier.

Bilston took the lead after just five minutes when Ade Beckford flicked a header over the keeper and landed the ball in the back of the net.

Matt Perry kept his composure to level on 17 minutes, then Luke Williams put the visitors in front on the stroke of half-time.

Chris Brown grabbed the equaliser.

## Albion season ticket prices to go up

ALBION have announced a rise in season-ticket prices of up to 14 per cent for the 2015/16 campaign.

The Baggies have increased adult season-ticket rates by £50 – returning prices to 2011/12 levels following a price cut in 2012 and subsequent freeze.

Chief executive Mark Jenkins said the increase had been forced by 'competitive realities' but insisted the decision had been taken with 'great reluctance'.

Pensioners' prices will rise by £40 and students and under-21s by £30, while juniors' prices have been frozen. All price rises are subject to the Bag-

### Football

gies remaining in the Premier League for next term.

"We have fought hard since 2012 to recognise the economic challenges our supporters face and freeze prices accordingly," said Jenkins.

"As the last national survey a year ago confirmed, only six clubs in the top two divisions could boast a lower average price than ours and even with these rises I expect the cost of football at The Hawthorns to remain one of the cheapest in the Premier League. So this is a decision taken

with great reluctance. However, we have to acknowledge the competitive realities of staying in the Premier League. Of all the Premier League clubs, we commit the highest percentage (75.5 per cent) of our revenue to salaries."

### Adult prices

Birmingham Road and Smethwick Ends: £399 online, £409 at ticket office price, £438.90 by direct debit.

East Stand Upper and West Stand: £499 online, £509 at ticket office, £548.90 direct debit.

East Stand Lower: £449 online, £459 at ticket office, £493.90 direct debit.

# YELTZ FINISH IN HIGH SPOT

**Halesowen Town 1 Grantham Town 1**  
**AARON Forde's last-gasp equaliser concluded Halesowen's successful first season in the Northern Premier League and secured 11th place in the final table.**

Grantham snatched a ninth minute lead when centre-forward Liam Read held up a long ball for Liam Hurst to stroke home from 15 yards and the Gingerbreads held onto their lead for the majority of a game of few chances on a rock-hard playing surface.

As the Yeltz tried to settle, Kris Green screwed wide before Read lofted the ball onto the top of Halesowen's net. Iyseden Christie flashed a shot wide of Grantham's goal before the interval and a Christie header was cleared off the line at the start of the second half.

Grantham striker Read then threatened on three further occasions as Grantham continued to create the better chances.

### Scoop

Read remained onside to scoop over the bar after 70 minutes and then flicked a Ben Saunders cross just high four minutes later.

Home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant then did well to claim the ball at Read's feet after 79 minutes.

Halesowen made three late substitutions in an attempt to change their fortunes and Danny Bragoli went close with seven minutes remaining.

The Yeltz finally conjured an equaliser two minutes into added time when an Aaron Griffiths throw-in from the left was headed on by substitute Aaron Lloyd for Forde to steer his shot the ball just inside the post.

**Halesowen Town:** Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde, Hull(c), Tilt, Charlton, E. Turner (Meece 82), Christie (Lloyd 78), Haseley (Graville 78), Bragoli.

**Unused Subs:** Heard, Pearson.

**Grantham Town:** J. Turner; Purcioe (c), Hurst, Miveld, Kay, Hollingsworth, Meadows, Lewis, Read (Bilyk 86), Saunders, Emmett.

**Unused Subs:** Hellewell, Farmer, Rhule.

## Cup fever gripping Villa fans



Villa fans queue around the ticket office to get the first final seats. Picture: BBCWM/Steve Hermon

VILLA supporters are in the throes of FA Cup fever after final tickets went on sale on Monday.

Fans queued outside the Villa Park ticket office from the early hours to ensure their place at Wembley for the May 30 final against Arsenal.

The first supporter to snap up a ticket was Dave Lane, who was also there the last time Villa lifted the cup in 1957.

"I woke up at about 2.30am, made a cup of tea but then couldn't get back to sleep so I thought I might as well park up outside Villa Park," he said.

Villa beat Liverpool 2-1 in the semi-final ear-

lier this month to set up a showdown with the Gunners.

Tim Sherwood's side are only the second Villa team to reach the final of the competition in the 58 years since they last won the Cup against Manchester United's Busby Babes.

Sherwood will hope to go one better than the 2000 finalists who were beaten 1-0 by Chelsea.

Meanwhile, Christian Benteke's agent has played down fresh reports linking the striker with a summer move.

Manchester United and Liverpool had been linked with the Belgium international but Benteke's agent, Eric Kismet, insists his sole focus is on keeping Villa in the Premier League.

## Loss takes the shine off celebrations

**Tividale 0 Market Drayton 1**  
VISITORS Market Drayton Town spoiled Tividale's celebrations at saving their status by scoring the only goal of the final league game of the season.

The day was planned as a thank you for the support Tividale had received from individuals and companies in their finally successful quest to pass a ground inspection that secured their place in the Evo-Stik First Division South.

But the players could not raise their game to match the occasion and went down to a single goal.

On 19 minutes Tividale had their best chance of the first half when Danny Ashton raced down the right wing, pulled the ball back from the by-line to David Bellis who played it into Edwards but from two yards he hit the cross bar.

On 28 minutes Drayton took the lead in bizarre circumstances when a long ball up field was not dealt with by the usually reliable Tividale keeper Charlie Price and he allowed Drayton striker Scott Ryan to nip in, round him and walk the ball into the net.

Tividale stepped up the pressure in the second half when Archer again cleared Read's bar.

They continued to press through out the half but Drayton's defence stood firm.

Botfield had an effort go wide on 72 minutes and Ashton had an effort saved by Read five minutes later.

Drayton were now in complete defence mode as Tividale had a penalty appeal turned down.

In a rare Drayton attack midfielder Courey Garratt was put through but Price made partial amends for his first half error when he was quickly off his line and blocked the shot.

## Albion youngsters gun down Arsenal

**Albion U-21s 3 Arsenal U-21s 0**  
ADIL NABI bagged a second-half brace as Albion U-21s produced a terrific display to defeat Arsenal 3-0 in the Barclays Under-21 Premier League.

Under-18 skipper Jack Fitzwater headed home Nabi's corner early in the first-half, before the forward hit two goals in five minutes after the break to seal an impressive victory.

Fitzwater rose highest at the back post to nod in Nabi's corner and score his first goal at under-21 level after 17 minutes.

The Baggies added a second when Adil Nabi drilled his shot into the corner.

★★★

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